

# LITERARY GAZETTE

Journal of Archaeology, Science, and Art.

Nº 16—1856.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH.

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**PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS IN FREE-HAND AND MECHANICAL DRAWING.**—Notice is hereby given, that Examinations in Free-hand and Mechanical Drawing will be held by the Department of Science and Art, at Marlborough House, Pall Mall, in JULY next. The Examinations are not limited to Students in the Schools of Art, but are open to all who intimate, on or before 1st July, by letter to the Registrar, their desire to be examined, and produce satisfactory specimens of their proficiency at the day of examination, which will be hereafter announced. Prizes of Instruments and Certificates will be granted to all who pass the requisite examination.

NORMAN MACLEOD, Registrar.

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JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.**—Patron, H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT. Next MONDAY evening, June 16th, at Eight, HENRY MAXWELL, Esq., Author of the "Great World of London," &c., will open the Eighth Course of Monday evening Lectures to the Working Classes with one on the CURIOSITIES OF LIFE AMONG THE LABOURERS AND POOR OF LONDON. In September next Mr. PEPPER will open for Working Men in any of the subjects upon which the Society of Arts examines. The Teachers will be paid by Fees, and gentlemen desirous of conducting one or more classes may communicate by letter to Mr. Buckmaster, Trades' School, Wandsworth, for Mr. Pepper. All the Dissolving Views and Lectures as usual.

Admission to the whole, 1s.; Children and Schools Half-price.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.—OPENING OF THE GREAT FOUNTAINS IN PRESENCE OF HER MAJESTY.** The Doors of the Palace and Park will be Open at Twelve. The Display will take place between Five and Six.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.—THE GREAT FOUNTAINS.**—The Directors of the Crystal Palace Company beg to announce that WEDNESDAY, the 18th of JUNE, has been fixed for the opening of the GREAT FOUNTAINS. On this day will take place the First Public Display of the whole system of Waterworks, comprising (in addition to the Fountains already in action) the Water Temple, the Cascades, the Two Large Waterfalls, and the Fountain of the Grand Laver.

On this occasion Admission will be limited to holders of One Guinea (Pink) and Two Guinea (Yellow) Season Tickets, and to persons paying Half-a-Guinea.

Transferable Tickets (Blue) will not be available on this day. See the date specified on the face of these Tickets.

The Doors of the Palace and Park will be opened at Twelve. Military Bands will be in attendance, in addition to the Band of the Company.

By order, G. GROVE, Secretary.

Crystal Palace, June 5, 1856.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.—GRAND HORTICULTURAL PETE.** The Second Flower Show of the present Season will be held on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY the 25th and 26th INSTANT. On Wednesday, the 25th, the doors will be opened at Twelve o'clock. Admission by Season Tickets, or by payment of 7s. 6d. On Thursday the 26th, the doors will be opened at Ten. Admission by Season Tickets, or by payment of 2s. 6d. Gardeners producing satisfactory evidence of their employment will (on application to the Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company, on or before Friday, the 20th inst.) receive Tickets of Admission, not Transferable, available on the 25th, by payment of 2s. 6d. Schedules of Prizes may be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company, and all Plans and Fruit for Exhibition must be entered on or before Friday, the 20th inst. Extra Prizes will be given for Azaleas (exhibited). For the accommodation of Gardeners, a Special Train will leave London Bridge Station at Six o'clock a.m., on Wednesday, the 25th. Trains will run from London Bridge at frequent intervals. Tickets of Admission, including conveyance by Railway, may be obtained previously at the London Bridge Terminus, at the several Agents of the Brighton Company, and at the Company's Offices, 42, Regent Circus, Piccadilly.

June 13, 1856.

**EDINBURGH NEW PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.** Advertisements for insertion in the JULY NUMBER of the above, must reach the Publishers by the 24th instant.

Edinburgh: Adam and Charles Black.

**ARUNDEL SOCIETY.**—The SEVENTH ANNUAL PUBLICATION is now Ready for Members who have paid the Subscription for 1855, viz.:

1. Four Wood Engravings from the FRESCOS OF GIOTTO, in the Arena Chapel. Nos. 23—26.
2. Notices of SCULPTURE IN IVORY, 4to, containing:—Mr. M. Digby Wyatt's Lecture of June 29th, and Mr. Oldfield's Catalogue of the Facsimiles of Ancient Ivory Carvings in the Society's collection, with Nine Photographs, by J. A. Spencer, in a Cover designed by Mr. D. Wyatt.

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The Secretary to the Cabinet of His Majesty the King of Bavaria.

Munich, May 25, 1856.

**TO PUBLISHERS.—ADVERTISEMENTS** intended for the forthcoming numbers of the TRANSACTIONS OF THE DUBLIN STATISTICAL SOCIETY, and the KILKENNY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, will be received up to June 24th.

These Journals command a large circulation among a very influential class in the United Kingdom, and afford an excellent medium for advertising. Scale of Terms moderate in each.

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CONTENTS.—1. Slick's High Life in New York. 2. Love and Politics. 3. Charles Mackay and Thomas Irwin. 4. The Rev. Charles Wales and his Reform. 5. Irish Fisheries. 7. The Civil Service.—Ordinance Valuation of Ireland. 8. Quarterly Record of the Progress of Reformatory Schools, and of Prison Discipline.

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The Fifteenth Quarterly General Meeting will be held at EXETER HALL, on THURSDAY, the 25th of June, at Three o'clock, Viscount RANELAGH in the Chair, when the 35th Public Drawing for Rights of Choice on the Society's Estates will take place.

CHARLES LEWIS GRUNHEISEN, Secretary.

**SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY TO OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL POST OFFICE.**

**THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL** having decided to grant a Half-holiday on Saturdays to the Officers of the General Post Office, so far as the indulgence can be afforded without inconvenience to the public, the several Offices which are not immediately connected with the receipt and delivery of the Mails will be closed at One o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The Money Order Offices in St. Martin's-le-Grand and Sherborne Lane will also be closed at the same hour.

The arrangement will commence on Saturday, the 7th instant. By command of the Postmaster-General.

ROWLAND HILL, Secretary.

General Post Office, 4th June, 1856.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A LINE OF CANADIAN MAIL PACKETS.**

The Government of Canada has established, under Contract, a line of Mail Packets to run between Liverpool and Quebec during the summer, and between Liverpool and Portland during the winter. A Packet will sail from Liverpool on Wednesday, the 4th June next, and thenceforward, on every alternate Wednesday during the period that the River St. Lawrence may be open, and once a Month when the navigation of the St. Lawrence shall be closed.

Mails will be made up for conveyance by these Packets, and such correspondence will be forwarded by them as may be specially addressed "By Canadian Mail Packet."

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Upon Books, the usual rate of postage of—For a Packet not exceeding Half-a-pound in weight, 6d. For a Packet exceeding Half-a-pound and not exceeding One Pound, 1s.

and so on, will be chargeable.

Newspapers will be liable to a postage of One Penny each. Books and Newspapers, as well as Letters, intended to be sent by these vessels, must be specially addressed "By Canadian Mail Packet."

By command of the Postmaster-General.

ROWLAND HILL, Secretary.

General Post Office, 2nd June, 1856.

## TRAVELS.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY.—

1. Morphology and Physiology.
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AFRICAN Cyrene was a name once renowned among the cities of the world. It was the capital of a country that rivalled Carthage itself in commercial importance, and in fertility almost equalled the valley of the Nile. Separated by lofty mountains from the Libyan desert, the soil was enriched by frequent rains and by perennial springs. Pindar celebrates the herds and flocks and abundant wealth of the land, as well as the fleets that bore its produce to distant ports: Cyrene was founded in the latter half of the seventh century B.C. by a colony of Greeks from the Ægean sea, led by Battus the Dorian. The place of their first settlement was determined by discovering a fountain, the same which now, after the lapse of twenty-five centuries, pours its perennial waters into the ruined reservoir of the ancient city. The story of Cyre, a daughter of the King of the Lapithæ, carried off by Apollo into Libya, the overthrow of the Libyan Antæus by Hercules, and the fabled Garden of the Hesperides, were among the legends connecting the traditions of Cyrene with Grecian mythology and lore. Of the early history of the colony few facts are precisely ascertained, but it is known that a series of kings reigned for more than two centuries after the first Battus, followed by more than a century of democratic government and intestine feuds, until, in 322 B.C., Ptolemy, the general of Alexander the Great, reduced Cyrene to the state of a province of his Egyptian kingdom. Its subsequent political history was dark and troubled. Turbulent revolts were suppressed with rigorous severity, and the prosperity of the country decayed. In 96 B.C. Ptolemy Apion bequeathed the Pentapolis to the Roman senate. At a later period it was formed, along with Crete, into a Roman province. "It was, perhaps," says Mr. Hamilton, "in his administration of this questorship, that Vespasian first came in contact with the Jews." It may be remembered that the name of Cyrene often occurs in the New Testament, and the people of that country were sufficiently numerous at Jerusalem to have there a synagogue of their own, as is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles. Jewish colonies were planted in the Pentapolis, in conformity with the general policy of the first Ptolemy, and they became so flourishing as to number more of the nation than any other land except Palestine. In the reign of Trajan, a Jewish rebellion in Cyrene was maintained with spirit and suppressed with difficulty. In the later days of Roman power the province shared the troubles of the Eastern empire to which it was attached. Notices of its gradual decay may be traced in the writings of the Christian Fathers. After the Mahometan conquests of North Africa little is heard of the Cyrenaica. A short notice of it was inserted by Abulfida in his Geography, under the head of Barka. It now forms the eastern part of the Turkish pachalik of Tripoli, divided into two prefectures, Benghazi and Derna, the only inhabited towns in the once populous district of the Pentapolis.

This region, once so noted in history, and still full of archaeological interest, has been little visited by modern travellers. Leo

Africanus was the first who called attention to it, and his account was more likely to repel than to invite visitors. Reports of the extensive monumental remains of antiquity led Louis XIV. to send Lemaire to make discoveries. Since his time Shaw, Bruce, and other travellers, have visited some parts of the district, but the first work treating in detail of its antiquities was that of Pachy, a French artist, who made known the riches of the remains of Greek civilization in this part of Africa. The French government has ever since been on the alert in this field of archaeological discovery, and the Louvre, through the labours of M. de Bourville, possesses specimens from the Pentapolis of great historical interest, and some, as the Panathenaic vases, of high artistic value. On the geography and topography of the coast Beechey's observations have provided authentic facts, and other sources of information are indicated by Mr. Hamilton in the introduction to this volume. On all that relates to the ancient history and condition of the city and territory, the work of the learned Dane, Thirge, 'Res Cyrenensis,' is a repository of all the statements recorded in the writings of classical antiquity. But the field has been comparatively so little explored by modern travellers, and has been so little brought before English readers, that Mr. Hamilton's narrative has the freshness of novelty, as well as other recommendations in its favour.

Between Malta and Benghazi, and the principal town in the district, and the seat of government, there are vessels which carry on a regular traffic. In the largest of these, a brigantine of 150 tons, Mr. Hamilton took his passage. Benghazi has a population of about 10 or 12,000 souls, and has the reputation of being the healthiest town in North Africa, but the commerce is small, and the place possesses no great interest for the traveller. The sea seems to have encroached here much on the land, the ruins being chiefly far beyond low-water mark. Mr. Hamilton stayed longer at Benghazi than those who follow him are likely to do after reading his account of it. We pass with him to Grennah, as the ancient city is now called, the ancient sound of the word being scarcely altered, though strangely different in our modern English mode of pronouncing Cyrene:—

"The ruins of the town itself are in such a state of dilapidation, that it would require no little study to obtain a satisfactory idea of their nature; there are few remains of private dwellings above ground, and extensive excavations would be required to uncover them. The excavator would doubtless reap a rich harvest, particularly of medals and, perhaps, of other small works of art. Temples, public buildings, and tombs, being more exposed to violation, are less likely than private dwellings to reward the excavator; in modern times, however, none of the visitors who have excavated here have applied themselves to clearing the houses, which would require great perseverance and the expenditure of considerable funds.

"The destruction is, in fact, so complete, and the masses overthrown so gigantic, that one can hardly ascribe the present havoc to the hand of man, or the wasting decay of ages. Though there are now no appearances of volcanic action, we find mention of earthquakes in Synesius; and the whole of the sea-coast, as seen at Benghazi and Apollonia, has subsided—an evidence, at least, of the presence of volcanic forces; and by this agency alone does it seem possible that such utter destruction could have been caused. The greater devourer of the cities of antiquity, a modern town rising in the vicinity, has not here aided the

destroyer; for the seventh century is the very latest date that can be ascribed to any single building in a very wide circuit; and the nature of the country, cut up by ravines, and for ages destitute of roads, renders the transport of heavy blocks of stone impossible. If its present destruction be due to the nomad tribes (of whose attacks Synesius speaks), who feared that Cyrene might again become a flourishing city, and their mistress, we cannot, after admiring the laborious energy of her builders, but wonder at the persevering fury of her destroyers. The remains of sculpture, as I have indicated, though not few, are all of a late age, and none in the best style of art: I except the three dancing figures, a bas-relief on limestone, near the fountain, now, alas! sadly mutilated. They are even now worthy a place in a museum, as they are of great artistic interest, showing the passage from the archaic style of the Egina marbles to the more graceful execution of the classic school."

The Necropolis is still, as it was in old times, the most remarkable part of Cyrene. Intercourse with Egypt seems to have deepened in the Cyrenæans the reverence for the dead, and modified in the disposal of them their Grecian usages. They abandoned the habit of cremation, though it does not appear that they adopted that of embalming:—

"In whatever direction one leaves the city, the tombs extend in long lines along the principal roads, they are found cut in the rocks of the most secluded valley, or built in groups on the summit of rising grounds. Of these the most interesting, beside the northern Necropolis, are those which flank the old road leading to Baria, and the long terraces on the western side of the Wady Bil Ghadir. I did not see the former till after I had been some time in Grennah, other objects having engaged all my attention; but, even when accustomed to the variety and vastness of its northern Necropolis, this struck me with astonishment. It was a lovely summer evening when I first came upon this long street of tombs, which is called by the Arabs the Market-place (El-suk), and passed for such with one of the earliest European travellers in this country—Lemaire. The long, deep shadows, with the glowing yellow of the sinking sun, concealed the ravages of time, and gave to the scene an air of solemn mystery which impressed the imagination and the eye. At every step some picturesque group of sarcophagi, or some large mausoleum, arrested the attention, and the sun had long set before I turned homewards. I often revisited this scene, and each time with renewed enjoyment. To reach it, one leaves the city by the gate near to what is supposed to have been the market-place of later times, when the traces of the old road soon show themselves."

Drawings are given by Mr. Hamilton of some of the most striking and interesting sepulchral monuments, as well as careful topographical notices of the places of burial:—

"The northern face of the eastern hill seems to have been the first place used for sepulture; and, judging from the style, I should think that some monuments, about half a mile from the fountain, on the road to Apollonia, are among the earliest. They are large sepulchres, with façades cut in the solid rock, with porticoes, in a very early Greek, almost Egyptian, style. I am inclined to think that the sepulchres, which are entirely excavated, without any adjuncts of masonry, are of two epochs, the earliest and latest: the former, though generally rude, impressive in their monolithic vastness; the latter, in their meretriciously minute though graceful decorations, reminding me forcibly of Pompeii. Some of these one finds, in which the smoothed rock is scored with lines to imitate masonry, like the stuccoed houses of Belgravia. To an intermediate period—that of the greatest prosperity—I ascribe the cave-tombs, faced with masonry, and the circular and temple-shaped

monuments which are so frequent; while the plain sarcophagus, rising from the rock on which it was hewn, may belong to any epoch. The road to Apollonia ran along the side of the hill, at about half its elevation; and, above and below, the tombs are built in long lines, tier above tier, forming, in some places, as many as twelve terraces, connected together by flights of steps.

"The disposition in each form of tomb varies but little. The sarcophagus contained, in general, room for one occupant; though I found an instance where two bodies had been deposited in the same excavation, one above the other, with a stone to separate them. The cave-sepulchres have, in general, a forecourt, excavated in the hill, presenting internally a low chamber, containing four or six plain sarcophagi, cut in the sides, and as many, or even a greater number, of similar cavities sunk in the floor. There are some which form a long, narrow gallery, on which open lateral chambers, each capable of containing two sarcophagi in length, and two or three tiers, one above the other. The interiors are, in general, left quite rough, without remaining marks of decoration: a few have been plastered and painted, and others present beautiful finishing of the stone-work inside. Those hewn in the rock, and adorned with a façade of masonry, were, in their original state, undoubtedly the most magnificent, as shown by the frequent remains of columns and statues, but they are now the least interesting. The façade has, in general, fallen away, leaving the sepulchre, with its bare wall and shapeless entrance, the ghastly spectacle of a fleshless skull. In only one case did I find such a façade still entire; it has separated from the rock, and leans slightly forward, ready to fall in the first violent rains. It seemed to me the better worth remarking, as it explains the many smooth surfaces the rock presents, as well as the decoration applied to the fountain.

"Among the most interesting tombs in the northern Necropolis are three, standing together, at a place where the road, following the outline of the hill, makes a deep bend. They are monolithic, and in one, the Doric columns, which support the excavated porticoes in front of the cave, are of abnormal proportions."

Derna, the other town of the district, is described as a more lively and prosperous place than Benghazi, though it has no harbour, and has less than half the number of inhabitants. A ruined battery on the coast has a curious history attached to it, connected with the occupation of the place by the Americans, about forty years ago, as narrated in a note. Striking inwards from Benghazi, in another expedition, Mr. Hamilton visited the station in the interior as far as Angila and Jalo on the south, and thence eastward towards the Nile, by Siwah. The Arabs of the desert gave no little annoyance on the journey, and Mr. Hamilton reports that they are the most fanatical tribes that he has heard of. Several times his life was in danger, and a vague fear of British power alone saved him from being murdered as an unbeliever. A forcible detention caused some loss of time, but opportunity was given to explore the neighbouring ruins of Agharmy, the Acropolis of the ancient Oasis, described by Diodorus Siculus and other historians. Part of the result of the visit is thus recorded:—

"After passing the wall, a steep street to the right leads round a large group of houses, in some of which I remarked ancient foundations, and thence one reaches a very massive wall, built of large stones. A doorway has been broken in this leading into the court of a house. At my request this door was opened, and I found myself in the forecourt of a temple or palace, now divided in its breadth by a modern wall. On entering, to the right and left are two immense doorways, now walled up, with a pure Egyptian outline and well-

cut cornice, but unadorned with hieroglyphics. This court now measures sixteen feet by ten feet, but in its original state it must have been nearly twenty feet wide. After much parley, the door to the right was opened, and to my astonishment I found myself in an apartment very low and dark, but whose sides were covered with hieroglyphics. A modern wall divides it in length into two chambers, and a flooring seemed to have been added to make a second story. Having penetrated so far, and being told there were no women in the house, I went up stairs, where I found the sculptures continued on the wall up to a heavy projecting cornice, above which the wall is undecorated. A window in the end of the second chamber on this floor enabled me to see that it was the wall of this building which I had seen from below. This chamber, in its original dimensions, is about twenty-four feet long by fourteen broad, and twenty-one high, and from its cornice, which seems calculated to support a ceiling, I presume it consisted of two stories. In the upper and further room, as it at present exists, I found on the right a passage, made in the thickness of the walls, eight feet in length by two in width, which may have served as a place of concealment, there being no egress from it. In the lower room, on the left, is also a small chamber about six feet by four feet, which seems to have formed a cupboard or some such repository.

"Here, as at Omm Beida, I could see no appearance of a cartouche among the sculptures on the walls; but I might have overlooked them, if any such exist, as only a cursory examination was reluctantly granted me by my guides; the walls, moreover, were perfectly blackened by smoke, and the only light we had was that of a flaring palm-branch. Leaving this building by the door by which I had entered, and turning round its exterior, I found the remaining part of the wall of the court, with another large doorway, similar to those I had already seen. Proceeding southwards from this I came upon indications of walls, and from the edge of a hill of rubbish to which I had advanced, I saw the wall just below my feet. I now turned away, leaving the western door of the old building I had entered behind me, and after a few steps came to a gigantic gateway (under which the road passes) of less finished, though good workmanship, and formed of stones of Cyclopean size. Other antiquities may probably exist among the houses, but my time was so short, and the unwillingness of the people to allow me to push my investigations further was so great, that I was unable to make a more satisfactory examination of the locality."

The distance from Siwah to Derna is a journey of fifteen days, and to Benghazi of twenty days. From Siwah, Mr. Hamilton travelled to Damanhour in 155 hours, a fair journey of thirteen days. Other routes to the Nile are indicated, including the direct road to Cairo in eleven days, passing the Natron lakes, but four of the eleven days are without water being found. We must not conclude our notice of Mr. Hamilton's pleasant book, without citing his testimony to the salubrity of the country. Speaking of the quarters at Grennah, where he pitched his tent for the longest time during his wanderings:—

"I cannot quit my pleasant quarters near the fountain without a few words in praise of a country where I have found both recreation and health. I have already told what abundant materials of interest it offers to the antiquarian. The sportsman will find ample employment among the red-legged partridges, quails, and kata'ah, a sort of yellow grouse, and a little further south, he will meet with the gazelle and the houbāra, or bustard; while the lover of a luxurious climate, decked with all the beauties of nature, will sympathise in the story of the 'Odyssey,' and easily picture to himself the difficulty with which the Ithacan tore away his companions from the land of the Lotophagi.

A more delightful residence for the summer months cannot be imagined. The nights and mornings are always cool. In the daytime the thermometer ranges from 75 to 98 degrees, the highest I have seen it; but there blows all day a cool breeze from the sea, which renders the heat insensible in the tent, and quite endurable on horseback. The means of comfortable existence are by no means wanting. A sheep costs from 4s. 6d. to 6s., and will keep good for four days; vegetables and fruit can be obtained from Derna, where the grape, the banana, the pear, and the water-melon are abundant; potatoes, bamias, tomatoes, cucumbers, and many other vegetables, may also be had there. Vegetables are likewise cultivated in this neighbourhood, in the little gardens of the Bedawin; and the milk of their cows affords the richest cream I ever tasted, though the pale butter which is made from it is not very good. A man must, therefore, be very hard to please, as far as the substantial necessities of life are concerned, if he be not satisfied with such fare as this country affords; of course, wine, beer, biscuits, cheese, and such other superfluities, must be obtained from Malta. There is also to be had here a substitute for the Swiss *cure de raisins*, in the camel's milk, which, from experience, I can recommend as singularly efficacious. When drunk fresh, it is hardly to be distinguished from the milk of the cow, though richer; but in cooling it acquires a most disagreeable salt taste. Warm or cold, it is equally efficacious, and might fairly take its place among the remedies prescribed by the faculty. If nowhere else in Europe, it might probably be obtained in Pisa, from the farm of the Grand Duke.

"To the traveller who has tarried in Egypt till the spring—who is tired of Syria, and unwilling to go to Europe, a more delightful retreat for summer cannot be suggested. The air is far purer than in any part of Italy, the scenery more beautiful and more varied, and fever and dysentery are unknown. From early spring to the middle of October, no rain ever falls, though the sky after the middle of August is almost always cloudy; a heavy night-dew supplies the moisture which, at this season, covers the hills with a fresh coat of verdure. The distance from Alexandria to Derna is not great, and there is constant communication by sea between the two places. I should recommend for encampment one of the terraces in the eastern part of the Wady Bil Ghadir, a little beyond the first fountain, in descending the Wady from the south, rather than the fountain by which I pitched my tents. There is here a triangular patch of ground, beneath a lofty rock, which shelters it from the mid-day and evening sun; trees rise on every side, and there is a break in the hills, giving a lovely peep of the sea. The ground is dry gravel; along the edge of the terrace runs a streamlet of water from the fountain; and, near at hand, are some caves, which, if cleaned out, would make commodious store-rooms, or would serve other useful purposes. It is not, like the fountain, a place of resort for the camels, cows, goats, sheep, and Bedawin, in the neighbourhood; and is free, therefore, from the dirt and insects they leave behind them."

Again, in comparing the climate with that of Syria, Mr. Hamilton says:—

"I came to the country an invalid, and was exceedingly unwell when I started for Grennah; but its pure air and lovely scenery restored me to perfect health. For those who seek summer quarters in the Mediterranean, I again repeat to them my former advice, to choose the pleasant solitude of Cyrene in preference to the Syrian hills, where so much sickness and mortality prevail. I have been many times in the Lebanon, and the rich beauty of Damascus has greater charms for me than that of any city I have seen; but, still, I have never been there without witnessing or feeling the effects of the pestilential air, which, every autumn, produces fatal fevers and dysenteries. Even in quitting its shores the evil spirit seems to pursue its victims; and I have seen more than one friend



seized with the deadly Syrian fever weeks after he had reached a healthier climate."

Although journeying in the interior is not without its risks and discomforts, Mr. Hamilton shows how these may be lessened, and his narrative will doubtless tempt many to visit scenes so accessible and attractive.

*Flemish Interiors.* By the Writer of "A Glance behind the Grilles." Longman and Co.

A grievous disappointment awaits the public upon opening this book. The suggestive and ingenious title, 'Flemish Interiors,' will naturally lead the reader to anticipate a peep into the homes of our Belgian neighbours; sketches of the *vie intérieure* of such old towns as Bruges, Louvain, Courtrai, and villages nestling in woods far distant from the beaten highway to the Rhine; some account of the modes and manners of the Walloons, for example; items of observation gathered from the *foyers* of the peasantry, domestic usages, traditional ceremonies, and word-pictures, to serve as companions to Ostade and Teniers. No such thing. The interiors of our author are the interiors of convents, monasteries, béguinages, churches, chapels, and cathedrals. His tour did not lie amongst the living and moving masses, but amongst the entombed population of the religious houses. We must not, therefore, look to his closely-packed volume for any aspects of Flemish life or Flemish stagnation, but the one aspect to which he exclusively devoted his investigations, and which he evidently regards as the only representative of the vital principle.

Our author has strong opinions upon the subject of religion. England is a free country, and he is entitled to hold his opinions and to print them. His book will, no doubt, provoke controversy; but our mission is literature and not polemics, and we will leave him in quiet possession of his faith. He looks upon the Reformation with a kind of lofty pity, mixed with a little indignation in reserve; he honestly regards Protestants as heretics of a dangerous class, and very foolish withal in their generation; and he does not care to let it be known that he considers the doctrines of Luther and Calvin as sheer infidelity. The saving glory of the Christian world he discovers in the rehabilitation of the Roman Catholic Church, and the restoration of the religious orders, dishonoured and shattered by the French Revolution; and he congratulates mankind in general, and Belgium in particular, upon the revival of religion in Flanders, after its double emancipation from French atheism and Dutch Calvinism, between which he evidently considers there is not a pin to choose. Thus fairly apprised of his views in advance, we can the better estimate the value of his labours. It is good to have a faith in something. It warms the imagination, sustains the enthusiasm, and supplies the traveller at once with a motive and an aim. Nor have we anything to object to the temper of this book. It is written, notwithstanding its subject, with remarkable candour and good humour. We have found nothing whatever ascetic in its treatment of topics peculiarly liable to generate asceticism. The writer describes the darkest recesses of conventual life in a pleasant, and sometimes even in a cheerful manner; and is so delighted with the abnegations and tortures of the cell and the cloister, that he becomes absolutely

lively over the horrors of La Trappe. This is surely a very agreeable and unexpected improvement upon ordinary works of this class. But it is time that the reader should have an opportunity of judging for himself of the contents of this curious volume.

We need not follow the familiar route of the author from Bruges through Ghent, and the rest of the principal towns. It will be enough to show the nature of the work by a few characteristic passages.

He describes the ceremony of an early mass at St. Jacques, in Bruges:—

"Just before the canon of the mass, a relic was brought in by an acolyte, and the officiating priest, standing on the highest step in front of the altar, held it forward; while about 250 persons, all men, and probably members of some confraternity, advanced, ascended the steps, and kissed it in rotation, the priest wiping it between each salute."

Each person knelt as he kissed it, and they all seemed "earnest and devout." This devotional feeling may be considered purely instinctive, as it does not appear that anybody knew what the relic was—at least, the author gives us no information on the subject. He is more explicit on another occasion, and carefully draws a distinction between "veneration" and "worship," lest any uninspired Protestant might construe the kissing and kneeling into an act of devotion. The "precious relic" in this instance gives its name to the shrine where it is preserved, the Chapelle St. Basile, ou du Saint Sang de Dieu, and where it is exhibited once a week to the faithful. Our author attended early mass here, and found the place full:—

"The object of this veneration—for it is distinctly understood by all Catholics not to be an object of worship,—has the appearance of a darkly stained sponge, and is contained in a phial about six or eight inches in length. A ribbon being fastened round either end of this, it is suspended round the neck of the priest, who displays it as he holds it horizontally before him. He sits guarded by soldiers on the north side of the altar during mass, and is relieved by another priest at the termination of each service, when all who have assisted are invited to ascend the steps on one side, kiss it bowing on one knee, and pass down on the other side."

The history of this relic is as miraculous as its preservation. It was saved at the Crucifixion, by St. Joseph of Arimathea, and nearly twelve hundred years afterwards was presented by Baldwin III. to the Count of Flanders, in consideration of his pious sacrifice in giving up his wife to the service of the lepers. Through what hands it reached those of Baldwin, or by what means it has been preserved up to the present time in a liquid state, the legend does not communicate. Sufficient for the believer is the credulity thereof.

We now turn to an interior of another kind—the convent of the poor Clares, an ancient order of nuns, which, becoming relaxed in its discipline, was restored, about 1400, to its primitive austerity, by Ste. Colette, a lady who revived the rule and spirit of St. Francis, and founded seventeen convents. She introduced a habit of coarse russet cloth, which is worn in all weathers, her own being "composed of above a hundred patches." Not to speak it irreverently, she seems, like Jaffier, to have been in love with ruin, and to have mortified herself by a variety of skilful expedients. Denial of the will was the basis of the rule; and she accordingly denied herself the luxury of shoes, and went barefoot, carrying her "love for poverty" into the whole business of

her life. On Fridays, she meditated from six in the morning till six at night, without, to use our author's language, "interrupting her mental prayer so much as to eat." This custom is still followed by the poor Clares, who are so fascinated by it, that, although the rule does not extend beyond six o'clock, "they are only too glad to be allowed to continue it till bed-time." Nothing to eat for a stretch of sixteen hours! All the arrangements of the order harmonize with this peculiar way of life. The house in which the nuns live is mean and incommensurable, and they are never permitted to leave it. Every kind of austerity and self-denial is put into practice; being barefooted, their floors are paved with brick, to make them the more sensible of the merits of naked feet; in the severest weather they are prohibited the use of fires; and under no circumstances of hunger or illness are they allowed to eat meat. They have only two meals: the first at twelve, herbs, rice, eggs; the second at seven, dry bread and beer. They do every thing for themselves, cook, wash, mend, sweep, scour. They rise (if it can be called rising) at half-past four, and are allowed only five minutes to wash and dress. Then to chapel, where they remain, without food, till half-past eleven. But night crowns the victory over the flesh. This part of their existence is so singular, that, to avoid the suspicion of exaggeration, it must be given in the words of the author:—

"They never lie down, but sleep upright. I went to a narrow, cork-screw, stone staircase into their cells, and saw these extraordinary beds; they consist of a hard and almost cylindrical mattress stuffed with straw, about three feet long, at right angles to which is fixed an equally hard upright pailasse to support the back. There is no pillow, neither are there sheets, and only one small thin blanket."

The furniture of the desolate apartment consists of a basin and ewer. Nor do the wonders of this miraculous mode of existence end here. It is not enough to starve and sleep perpendicularly. The poor Clares, destined to be cut short in all human desires, are constantly removed from house to house, lest, like Trenck, they should form friendships with the familiar spiders, or, as our author expresses it, "to prevent too great an attachment to one locality;"—a contingency we should have thought the most unlikely thing in the world. Yet these people are described as being not only content, but happy, and even hilarious. They consider their discipline as *bon pour l'âme, et bon pour le corps aussi*! Our author was told that two of the novices skipped about for joy like kittens at the thought of making their profession.

The only possible piece of self-denial from which the poor Clares seem to be exempt is that of silence, a rule generally observed with greater or lesser rigidity by most of the orders. The Carmelite nuns never speak except at meals and recreation—only two hours out of the twenty-four. During the rest of the day, exclusive of the time passed in the chapel, they are shut up alone in their cells, working or meditating. The Carmelites, like the Clares, are prohibited the use of animal food; but if a nun happens to be ill the doctor may authorize meat, in which case, however, she must either dine alone, or should she sit at table with the sisterhood, her exceptional plate is boarded off from the rest.

If the information collected by the author may be relied upon, the notion that the Trappist monks observe perpetual silence, and dig



their own graves daily, is a vulgar error. The latter idea is supposed to have arisen from the fact that when one of the community dies, he is buried by the rest; and as an open grave is always kept in the grave-yard, a fresh one is dug by the brothers as soon as the last is filled up. But this is, in effect, pretty much the same thing. The rule of silence, also, if not theoretically perpetual is nearly so practically. No monk can speak to another except in the presence of the Superior, or, in his absence, the Sub-prior of the order; and as the Superior is a remarkably isolated personage, and not very diffusive in his intercourse, the opportunities of conversation must be so rare as to amount almost to a prohibition. Silence is undoubtedly the rule of the order, and is strictly observed.

The volume is full of details of a corresponding character; but as many of the orders closely resemble each other, and some of them are identical in their main features, the repetition of similar particulars becomes wearisome at last. Nor is it easy to enter into the jaunty satisfaction with which the writer runs about amongst those secluded establishments, chatting gaily in *parlours* with robust priests, and holding animated conversations with invisible nuns, veiled behind spiked and curtained grilles. In order to enjoy the book thoroughly, it is indispensably necessary that the reader should have as great a zeal for the cloisters as the author, and as implicit a faith in the cheerfulness and healthiness of motionless solitude. Its statements are not always commendable for their accuracy, but it bears evident marks of industry and zeal. There is an index at the end, which seems to have been compiled on the conventual principle, to mortify the reader. It is full of ludicrous misdirections, which effectually baffle and reprove the spirit of inquiry.

*A History of the Romans under the Empire.*  
By Charles Merivale, B.D., Late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. Vols. IV. and V. Longman and Co.

It will not be for lack of diligence and effort on his own part, if Mr. Merivale should fail to supply, for the period of the Empire, that want of a worthy history of Rome to which we had occasion lately to refer. His work is growing, and that to somewhat formidable dimensions. Of the two volumes now before us, the fourth brings down the history to the death of Augustus, and the fifth is occupied by his three successors.

The year 30 B.C. witnessed the close of the fifteen years of vicissitude and suspense which had followed the murder of Julius, by the establishment of his chosen heir in the wider inheritance of his empire. The two following years are occupied with the celebration of his triumph, and the settlement of his government; and in 27 B.C. those associations, which we connect with the very name of Octavian, of strife and bloodshed, treachery and cunning, the *graves principum amicitia*, and their deadly conflicts, in which the whole resources of the East and West are seen alternately in combination and in collision, and amidst which the last convulsive gasps of the republic are faintly heard,—all these are exchanged for the new state of things which illustrates the name of Augustus. And if the annals of the old republic are the chief example of the working of constitutional principles which the ancient world offers to the student of history and politics, those of the early empire have a

no less interesting bearing on the grand question, which we have seen again revived in our own day, whether or not there are stages in the social life of certain nations, in which a well-ordered despotism, founded on personal ascendancy, is better fitted to give stability and prosperity than a constitutional monarchy or republic; and, if so, whether such a form of government can be long perpetuated. Without generalising too hastily, we may yet venture to say that the narratives comprised in these two volumes go far to supply a practical solution, the one of the former, the other of the latter clause of this double problem.

That such a question should arise at all in a free state, is the retribution exacted by rights unsatisfied and wrongs unredressed; the judgment which, for nations as well as individuals, comes sooner or later upon those who will not judge themselves. Thus, at Rome the corruptions of the republic had long passed the limits within which they might have been restrained by the constitutional monarchy which had been conceived in the mind of Scipio and embodied in Cicero's language. Some few, 'the last of the Romans,' had not even yet despaired of its realization in the person of Octavian (whom, by the bye, Mr. Merivale persists in calling Octavius); but the surer instinct of the man who had the game in his own hands told him that the time for the experiment was past. That political indifference, which always results from a chronic revolutionary state, had long settled down on the Roman people: all they asked for was repose; the public opinion was equally ready to pronounce for any leader who would bestow it; the victory of Actium decided which that leader was, and the decree of fate would have been ratified, had such appeals been then the fashion, by as many ballot boxes as those of France. The description of this state of popular feeling throughout the Roman empire, carried as it was, through social and moral causes, to a degree of debasement to which modern history has yet happily afforded no parallel, forms the very appropriate opening of this section of the history.

But another element is required, besides the acquiescence of the people, in order to give even a temporary stability to a despotism thus inaugurated. That element is the prince's faith in himself and in his destiny; and its possession by Augustus is admirably recognised by Mr. Merivale, in his account of the close of the emperor's career:—

"His end was perfectly tranquil. He obtained the euthanasia he had always desired, very different, but not less in harmony with his character, from that of his predecessor. There was no cynicism, at least to my apprehension, in the gentle irony with which, at the moment of death, he sported with the vanities of a human career. Though cheered with no religious hope for himself, nor soothed by any deep-felt yearnings towards his survivors, he was supported on the verge of the abyss by the unflinching power of national sentiment, and the strong assurance that he had confirmed by a great achievement the fortunes of the Roman state.

"The history of the emperors will afford us abundant materials for estimating the strain upon the heart and brain of the fatal possession of unlimited power. Some men it puffs up and intoxicates with pride, as we have seen was the case with the bold and magnanimous Cæsar; others, of vehement and ill-regulated passions, it may drive to raging madness; some it crazes with fear, others it fevers with sensual indulgence; others again, whose intellects are weak, though their natures

are susceptible and kindly, it may reduce to absolute imbecility. But there is still another class of characters, self-poised and harmoniously developed, in whom it breeds a genuine enthusiasm, a firm assurance of their own mission, a perfect reliance upon their own destiny, which sanctifies to them all their means, and imbues them with a full conviction that their might is right, eternal and immutable. At the close of his long career, Augustus could look back upon the horrors in which it had commenced without blenching. He had made peace with himself, to whom alone he felt himself responsible; neither God nor man, in his view, had any claim upon him. The nations had not proclaimed him a deity in vain; he had seemed to himself to grow up to the full proportions they ascribed to him. Such enthusiasm, it may be argued, can hardly exist without at least some rational foundation. The self-reliance of Augustus was justified by his success. He had resolved to raise himself to power, and he had succeeded. He had vowed to restore the moral features of the republic, and in this too he had, at least outwardly, succeeded. While, however, the lassitude of the Romans, and their disgust at the excesses of the times, had been the main elements of his success, another and more vulgar agent, one which it might seem to need no genius to wield, had been hardly less efficacious; and this was simply his command of money. Throughout his long reign, Augustus was enabled to maintain a system of profuse liberality, partly by strict economy and moderation in his own habits, but more by the vast resources he had derived from his conquests. He was anxious to keep the springs of this abundance ever flowing, and he found means to engage the wealthiest of his subjects to feed them with gifts and legacies. The people were content to barter their freedom for shows and largesses, to accept forums and temples in place of conquests; and while their ruler directed his sumptuary laws against the magnificence of the nobles, because it threw a shade over the economy which his own necessities required, he cherished the most luxurious tastes among the people, and strained every nerve to satiate them with the appliances of indolent enjoyment, with bath and banquets, with galleries and libraries, popular amusements and religious solemnities.

"Yet the secret of his power escaped perhaps the eyes of Augustus himself, blinded as they doubtless were by the fumes of national incense. Cool, shrewd, and subtle, the youth of nineteen had suffered neither interest nor vanity to warp the correctness of his judgments. The accomplishment of his designs was marred by no wandering imaginations. His struggle for power was supported by no belief in a great destiny, but simply by observation of circumstances, and a close calculation of his means. As he was a man of no absorbing tastes or fervid impulses, so he was also free from all illusions. The story that he made his illicit amours subservient to his policy, whether or not it be strictly true, represents correctly the man's real character. The young Octavius commenced his career as a narrow-minded aspirant for material power. But his intellect expanded with his fortunes, and his soul grew with his intellect. The emperor was not less magnanimous than he was magnificent. With the world at his feet, he began to conceive the real grandeur of his position; he learnt to comprehend the manifold variety of the interests subjected to him; he rose to a sense of the awful mission imposed upon him. He became the greatest of Stoic philosophers, inspired with the strongest enthusiasm, and impressed the most deeply with a consciousness of divinity within him. He acknowledged, not less than a Cato or a Brutus, that the man-God must suffer as well as act divinely; and though his human weakness still allowed some meannesses and trivialities to creep to light, his self-possession both in triumphs and reverses, in joys and in sorrows, was consistently dignified and imposing."

It would seem hardly possible for any man to fulfil such a destiny, without the aid of

counsellors and instruments fitted to act upon him, as well as for him; and nothing was probably so fatal to the first Napoleon as that he knew not how to yield to such advisers. As the forces exerted by the attendant planets are sources of stability to the central sun itself, so was the new ruler kept in his place very much by the action exerted upon him by such satellites as Mæcenas and Agrippa. Of these great men, as indeed of all the leading characters of the period, Mr. Merivale gives us well marked and forcible delineations; though sometimes the force is diminished by a too visible elaboration, and the author is apt to be carried away, as in his character of Virgil, by his own subjective view of the portrait in hand. Of these portraits we will give, as a specimen, his Mæcenas:

"The demeanour of Mæcenas was remarkable, as has been said, for its apparent ease and nonchalance, which disarmed suspicion, and opened to him the secrets of his adversaries as well as of his friends. It was difficult to believe that a man with the air of an elegant debauchee was actually awake to every breath of popular sentiment, dived into the hearts of the citizens, and traced the aims and motives of every political cabal. There are no limits perhaps to the extent to which a cool head and artful temper may carry this kind of deception; but such cat-like vigilance can never be united with any real *abandon*, and no reliance can be placed on the intimations we have received of his geniality in private society. We shall find reason to believe, when we come to review the characters of the famous literary companionship which surrounded the board of Mæcenas, that the patron was, even in his most festive hours, still playing the part of a politician, and governing the world from the head of his table, by the wit and wisdom of his well-trained associates. If such was the case, we perceive how the minister's earnest activity admitted of no actual relaxation; nor can we wonder at the evident wearing out of the vital machine under the constant tension of thirty years of office. The date of Mæcenas's birth is not accurately known. It is supposed that he was a few years older than his patron, and may have been about sixty years of age at the time of his death."

For elaborate delineations of the literary celebrities of the Augustan age we must refer our readers to the work itself; and, in so doing, we would direct attention to the skill with which Mr. Merivale places Livy in his true relation to that high cultivation of the art of rhetoric which was a marked characteristic of the time.

Equal care has been bestowed upon the personages who figure in the family of Augustus; their fortunes and characters occupy a large portion of the volume; and Mr. Merivale traces very ably the way in which the history of Rome gradually assumes the character of a domestic drama. The general narrative of events at Rome, in the provinces, and on the frontiers, is clearly and eloquently told; and the picture of the times is well filled in with those details of inner, as well as outer life, which are now properly demanded of every historian. One chapter is devoted to an account of the organization of the provinces by Augustus; and another to a sketch of the Roman Empire in its comprehensive unity, with the Mediterranean for the centre of the empire, and Rome for the centre of the Mediterranean; in its marked divisions of the East, the North, and the West; and in its essential varieties of languages, religions, and classes. The perfect system of internal communications, and the elaborate machinery of surveys, registration, and taxation, by which the central government commanded

every portion of the vast circumference, are all described in detail, with the addition of some interesting statistical discussions. One whole chapter is occupied with an account of the great cities of the Empire, or rather of Greece, Asia Minor, Syria, and Italy (for those of Africa are entirely omitted), and a description of Rome herself, on which Mr. Merivale has elaborated all his resources. It may be worth while to quote his estimate of the position which the imperial city held as compared with other capitals:—

"Nor indeed was Rome calculated, from the position it held among the great cities of the empire, to attain any vast development of population. It was neither a commercial nor a manufacturing city. It was not the emporium of a great transit trade, like Alexandria, nor the centre of exchange among a host of opulent neighbours, like Antioch. It was not surrounded by the teeming lives of life which encircled Babylon or Seleucia. Nor was it increased by the ever-accumulating wealth of all classes of society, like modern London, or by the constant tightening of the bands of centralization, by which the lifeblood of the provinces is flooded back upon Paris. It was not the natural focus of attraction for the devotees of ease and luxury; but every one who had the means escaped from it as often and as much as he could, and exchanged its ungenial climate and pestilential air for the cool breezes of the mountains or the coast, and the voluptuous recreations of a Campanian watering-place. The country around it was almost abandoned, in the imperial period, to the maintenance of cattle, and the drain of human life caused by its crowded state and baneful atmosphere was only replenished by immigration from distant shores. I will not compare it with Madrid, a mere royal residence, nor with the marble exhalation of St. Petersburg; but of modern capitals Vienna may perhaps be considered most nearly to resemble it. Its great social characteristic was the entire absence of a middle class, the bone and sinew of cities as well as of empires; and its population mainly consisted of the two orders of wealthy nobles on the one hand, whose means were in process of trituration under the pressure of the imperial imposts, and the poor citizens on the other, who clung to the forum and the circus for the sake of their amusements and largesses."

The volume concludes with an account of the social life of the Romans under Augustus, as exhibited in an imaginary picture of the day of a Roman noble, and as reflected in the pages of the great poets of the age. We wish our space had permitted us to discuss Mr. Merivale's able but highly exaggerated delineation of Virgil; but this would require a separate essay of no small dimensions.

The great interest of the matter contained in this fourth volume has left us no space for an examination of the fifth, which gives by far the best account that has yet been published of the three successors of Augustus, in whom we see the darker side of the imperial system. Mr. Merivale deserves great praise for his efforts to make that discrimination of character which we so entirely miss in the uniformly black portraits of Suetonius. His style is pleasing and eloquent, but we cannot help feeling how much less suited it is to the subject than the terse gravity of Tacitus. At all events, there are many passages which would be improved by a judicious pruning; as when, for instance, in the admirable description of Jerusalem, we are told that "the temple and palace were connected by a bridge, across which the sovereign marched above the heads of his subjects, as the sun passes in the heavens from cloud to cloud!" It is only fair to add that this blemish occurs in the midst of a peculiarly excellent portion of the fifth volume; we refer to the prominence

given to the history of Judea under the first Cæsars. Mr. Merivale has wisely judged that the greatest event of this period of history ought to have its due place; and it gives us pleasure to conclude our notice with the following passage on the 'Pax Romana':—

"Within these sacred limits of the Roman Terminus the repose of the empire was calm, passive, and almost deathlike. The shores of the mighty ocean might still resound with the murmurs of the eternal conflict of servitude and freedom, but the depths of its central abysses were unmoved alike by winds and currents. The Alps, the Atlas, the Pyrenees, and the Hæmus, were the last retreats of domestic independence: but the whole power of Augustus (so languid or timid on the frontiers), had been directed against his internal foes with an unrelaxed energy which showed but too well, that if his arm was anywhere weak, it was restrained, not by infirmity, but by policy. Ever and anon the subject nations lifted their heads from the dust and beheld with amazement, and even with mortification, by how mere a shadow of military force they were actually controlled, and again lay quietly down, and resigned themselves to their humiliation. Spain and Egypt, they remarked, were kept in obedience each by two legions; Africa by one only; Gaul by two cohorts or twelve hundred men; Greece by the six lictors of a single prætor. The sway of Rome throughout the provinces was a government of opinion; it was maintained by the skill with which the interests of individuals and classes were consulted, by a system no doubt of political corruption, which, at least, was better than the sword, by the remembrance of the ills of barbaric independence, above all, by a sense of the moral superiority of the conquerors. When the spiritual yearnings of the world, thus pacified and amalgamated, began shortly to issue in a burst of religious enthusiasm, and to receive the pressure of a Providential guidance, the moral force of the Roman name, and the abiding impression of its intellectual greatness, was the rock against which the assaults of Christianity were for ages dissipated and disarmed."

"Nevertheless it was in vain that men cried peace, peace, when there was no peace. I hope, in the progress of this history, to trace the great lines of Rome's last and fatal struggle—her struggle for moral existence, for the preservation of her ideas of polity and society, in which she was doomed to be worsted by a foe bred within her own bosom, and sprung from the depths of national humiliation and disgrace. The greatest of Roman historians has lamented that the empire could furnish only a narrative of petty events, and a survey of contemptible characters; yet he has succeeded in investing this barren subject with a livelier interest, and inspiring it with a deeper pathos, than have been developed by the more stirring themes of any of his rivals. And yet he was not aware of the conflicts that were really impending—the wars worse than civil that were actually fermenting beneath that unruffled surface—the foes more terrible than Gaul or Carthaginian, that were slowly struggling upwards, like the warriors of Cadmus, to destroy or be destroyed beneath the light of heaven. The appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ in the world dates from about the middle of the reign of Augustus. This mysterious event, in which we trace the germ of Roman dissolution, and still mark the frontier line between ancient and modern civilization, though once vulgarly assigned to the year 753 of the city, is now universally referred to a somewhat earlier period; and among many conflicting opinions, the best chronologers are still divided between the years u.c. 747 and 749, or 7 and 5 b.c. It was not, however, till more than half a century later that the political consequences of the Christian revelation began to be felt in the world: it is with these that our history will be principally concerned, and it will not be necessary to refer to them any further by anticipation."



*Poems and Translations.* By Mrs. Machell, late Mrs. Torre Holme. John W. Parker and Son.

THERE is evidence in this little volume of true sensibility and pure taste. The subjects are all within the range of a woman's sympathies and pursuits, and they afford ample opportunities for the display of the writer's accomplishments and the exercise of her fancy. A legitimate success awaits the poet who portrays real emotions in natural language, and who seeks in verse a vent for the fullness of thought, and not an escape from vacuity of mind. Mrs. Machell's poems fulfil these conditions, and are distinguished by grace, delicacy, and truthfulness. They depict domestic scenes and experiences with true pathos and tenderness; and when higher and sterner themes are treated, the power of the writer rises with the occasion. Nor is it merely for their direct simplicity and impulsive ardour these productions deserve commendation. They are equally meritorious for their exemplary freedom from affectations of every kind. They are certainly not conceived in the spirit of the new school of poetry, in which nature and art are alike sacrificed to meretricious effects and verbal tricks. There is no false glitter or artificial excitement in them. The diction is everywhere easy, the sentiments are always just, and there is not a psychological mystery to be found in them from the first page to the last. They appeal, by the most obvious means, from the heart of the writer to the heart of the reader; and the impression they make is not that of verse which dazzles the imagination, but which awakens the feelings.

Drawing her inspiration from the actual life around her, Mrs. Machell brings before us incidents and reflections in which everyday experience will recognise many familiar features. The following passages, taken from a piece entitled 'A Portrait,' are striking by the force of their reality:—

"She stood amid the crowded hall,  
Forlorn—but oh, how fair!  
Though many a beauty graced the ball,  
To me the loveliest there.

"Yet guilt and woe a shade had cast  
Upon her youthful fame;  
And scornful murmurs, as she passed,  
Were mingled with her name.

"She was not beautiful!" they said;  
I felt that she was more—  
One of those women women dread,  
Men fatally adore.

"I looked into her languid eyes,  
So dark and deeply set,  
And there read thrilling mysteries  
Of passion and regret.

"I thought of Eve when taught to sin,  
Fresh from the serpent's lore;  
Though tutored to seduce and win,  
Yet lovelier than before.

"With none to strengthen or sustain,  
Alas! why came she there,  
Amid the selfish and the vain,  
Alone in her despair?

"Perchance she longed to see once more  
Some dear, familiar face—  
Some vanished friendship to implore—  
Some enmity efface.

"I know not: for our first and last  
Sad meeting was this one.  
Tearful I gazed; but midnight passed,—  
I looked, and she was gone."

The poetical creed of Mrs. Machell is very clearly expressed in the following lines, a fragment of a poem of some length, which we regret we cannot quote more fully. Eschewing all misanthropy and morbid sentiment, she vindicates the healthy and cheerful influences of poetry with a modesty of self-appreciation which will not be overlooked by the reader:—

"Bright poetry! although I stand afar  
From thy reluctant throne, which, like a star,  
Shines ever constant, with enduring power:  
Though I am feeble, like a trailing flower,  
A nameless weed, ephemeral and weak,  
That falls to earth and withers, ere we speak;  
Yet now uplifted gently to the air,  
By thy sustaining presence, here I dare,  
I, thy most timid votary! to dissent  
From those immortal poets who have blent  
Anguish, and gloom, and madness with thy name;  
They are secure in their achieved fame:  
But I contend, that spirits wholly thine,  
Are kindled, by thy power, to joys divine,  
Making the hour of a true poet's birth  
A benediction to the suffering earth."

Very excellent, too, and noble in thought and expression is the following eloquent sonnet:—

"NIGHT.

"I look upon the heavens! as bright  
With glittering stars, as if rich golden sand  
Were scattered o'er the bosom of the night  
In lavish play by an Almighty hand;  
And know that every speck, that every ray,  
That through the darkening clouds I dimly view,  
Belongs to suns and systems far away,  
Where countless orbs their distant path pursue:  
My spirit quails beneath the aching sense  
Of such stupendous and omniscient power,  
And turns to earth again, with joy intense,  
To watch the glow-worm, and to scent the flower,  
And feel, though myriad worlds around us move,  
The meanest insect shares God's boundless love."

We can only indicate by a few snatches of verse the true character of this volume, which abounds in melodious and graceful passages. As a sample of lyrical beauty and womanly feeling, here are some stanzas from the 'Song of the Bayadere'—tempted from her native fields to exhibit her skill in the theatres of Paris:—

"They have borne me far from the distant strand,  
Where my God's bright fanes in the sunlight gleam,  
And the Ganges pours through the happy land  
The clear cool depths of its sacred stream;  
They have borne me here, to this cloudy France,  
Where day is as dim as an Eastern night,  
And in cruel mockery bid my heart say,  
By the lamp's fierce glare in the stranger's sight.

"I would I had been like the campak flower,  
In the blessed gardens of Indra found,  
That withers and dies in a single hour,  
If its blossom but touches less holy ground.  
When the tinkling ring of my girle-bells  
Keeps gentler time to my footsteps' play,  
And the voice of applause around me swells,  
I could weep and shrink from the world away.

"The shafts in Candio's, our Love-God's quiver,  
Are tipped with the petals of Indian flowers,  
And I swore by the Ganges, our sacred river,  
That, till I returned to my native bowers,  
No passion should over my heart have sway,  
No love strains should trouble my bosom's peace;  
Then think how I long for the blissful day  
That shall bid my vow and my exile cease."

If we have not found in Mrs. Machell a poet in whom Tennyson is reproduced, or who emulates the fantastic eccentricities of Alexander Smith, we have found something better—a writer who trusts to her own feelings and knowledge, who does not go out of her way in search of exotic embellishments, and who combines, with a fresh poetical spirit, the art of expressing her meaning accurately and intelligibly. There are some translations from the French and Italian, which exhibit Mrs. Machell's talents no less favourably in another aspect; but the reader must go to the volume itself for a full flavour of its qualities.

*The Chinese and their Rebellions, viewed in Connection with their National Philosophy, Ethics, Legislation, and Administration.*  
By Thomas Taylor Meadows. Smith, Elder, and Co.

THIS is a work to be studied for information, not to be read for entertainment. It is invaluable for reference on all matters pertaining to the social, political, and religious condition of China, and it presents as clear an account of the history of the empire, as the

imperfect records of former times and the fearful perplexity of passing events admit of. With regard to the great rebellion, which seems now to have assumed a chronic form, we confess that our views are more obscure than before seeing the book of Mr. Meadows. How much belongs to politics, and how much to religion; how far the leaders are patriots or heroes, and how far fanatics or freebooters, the reader will be sorely puzzled to make out. Of the origin of one great branch of the movement a trustworthy account has appeared in the work of Mr. Hamberg, of Hong Kong, who got the details from Hung-jin, a relative of the Heavenly Prince, who now rules at Nanking. Mr. Meadows quotes largely from this book, and bears testimony to its correctness. But in other parts of the vast empire there are other rebels afoot, and no accurate information has been obtained as to the real origin or progress of their movements. Those who are anxious to ascertain all that is known on the subject may consult Mr. Meadows, but we have given up in despair the attempt to follow the story, with present light, and are content to await the issue of this last of the Chinese rebellions. A more intelligible and more practical part of the subject is that which records the bearings of these Chinese wars and revolutions upon the further opening up of the country to Europeans. The work of Sir John Davis gives by far the best account of the position of China, in this respect, up to the time of the close of the war. In 1842, the island of Hong Kong was ceded to Great Britain, and the ports of Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai were opened to foreign trade; making, together with Canton, what have since been known as the Cinque ports. It is from about this time that the acquaintance of Mr. Meadows with China commenced. In November 1841, about a year before the treaty was signed, he began the study of the Chinese language at the University of Munich. While studying at that University, the announcement of a course of lectures on the Chinese language, by Professor Neumann, induced him to turn his attention to the subject, as he had always felt great interest in the people. This was followed by a desire to be employed under the government, and, in due time, he was appointed one of the interpreters in Her Majesty's Civil Service in China. Canton was the consulate to which Mr. Meadows was attached, but he was here employed in various special services, and has had as many opportunities as any other European of observing the state of the empire since the inauguration of the new era of Anglo-Chinese intercourse. The results of his experience are communicated in the present volume. The general impression conveyed by his long statements concerning the present rebellion may be gathered from the following avowal of his sympathy with the revolutionists. After showing, from official documents, that the imperial policy is still unchanged in its intolerance of foreigners, the latest edition of the penal code awarding punishment for intercourse or trade with barbarians, Mr. Meadows says:—

"The reader may now still better understand why I, while condemning all intervention whatever either for or against the Tae pings, nevertheless do feel politically desirous for their success. Their claims of supremacy for their sovereign are in no wise more exaggerated than those of the Manchos, whom they are endeavouring to oust. The present dynasty continues, notwithstanding the British



war and in opposition to the spirit of the treaties, pertinaciously to act on the old national policy of 'making a distinction between natives and barbarians,' of 'avoiding friendly relations' with the latter, and of 'keeping them off.' The Tae pings, on the other hand, apart from the claim to supremacy, have, by the testimony of all who have visited them, manifested a decidedly friendly feeling. Though the successive visits had the effect of modifying this feeling on the part of the leaders so far as to make them at length begin applying to us the term 'barbarian,' there still remained the essential circumstance that they called us 'barbarian brethren,' a conjunction in which the first word is necessarily much modified by the second. And, what is of most importance, they are themselves, in certain of their fundamental religious doctrines, sedulously diffusing principles by which they very claim to supremacy, which they now urge, will be overthrown in the minds of their own people, with their future certain increase in geographical and historical knowledge. Hence, with the establishment of the Tae pings, foreigners will be in no respect worse placed as to all legitimate international objects than they were before, while a broad and firm basis will be laid for the assimilation of national fundamental beliefs and for a consequent peaceable extension of free intercourse and commercial privileges. The last fifteen years' experience has finally proved that these advantages can be obtained from the present dynasty only by wars, bloody and disastrous for the Chinese; wars engendering long national hatred, and tending directly to destroy that very national industry which alone makes commercial intercourse valuable."

A subject that may prove of more political importance, is the advance of Russia towards the subjugation of China. Taking advantage of the weakness of the empire during the present rebellion, the Russians have extorted concessions and acquired territory on the northern frontier. The direction of these aggressions is indicated in the following statement:—

"The right of navigation of the Amoor enables her to double, or to turn the flank of the Gobi desert—hitherto the great barrier to material encroachments on China. She can now quietly make, in her new settlements, some such a collection of war material as Sebastopol has given us a notion of; and then, by the aid of a squadron of small river-steamers,—which the Chinese empire as yet furnishes no means of resisting,—transport it, and a large army up the Songari affluent, till within such a distance of Monkden, the capital of Manchuria, as would form but a comparatively short march through a well watered and fertile, if not a cultivated region. From thence to Peking, a Russian army would meet with no serious natural obstacles. But it is more likely that she quietly would collect a sufficient fleet at and near the Amoor, and then availing herself of the ice-free summer months, transport an army by sea up to the Peiho river. She might, in this way, be mistress of Peking and the surrounding country actually before the three maritime powers heard of her invasion; and, after that, have not only established a permanent and unassailable internal communication with the Songari, but have seized and securely occupied Chih le Shan tung and the whole of the Yellow River valley, by the time that England, France, and America could bring up forces to retard her further progress. This would be the case, even if these three powers had previously arranged for instant action in the common cause. What would happen if there was no previous agreement, I may leave the reader to picture to himself."

This part of the work of Mr. Meadows will receive, it is to be hoped, the attention which it deserves from our political rulers, and useful suggestions are offered for protecting the interests of other European powers, in case of Russia carrying out the schemes

for which she is now making preparations. Another important topic discussed by Mr. Meadows is the opium trade, on the prosperity of which the revenue of our Indian empire greatly depends. On the policy, and on the ethics of the question, much is said, but we must refer those who are interested in it to the book, merely quoting the author's opinion on the habit of opium smoking, which he does not describe in colours so dark as has been usually done:—

"As to the morality of the opium question, I am fortunately able to give the home reader, by analogy, and in few words, as exact an idea of it as I have got myself. Smoking a little opium daily is like taking a pint or two of ale, or a few glasses of wine daily; smoking more opium is like taking brandy as well as beer or wine, and a large allowance of these latter; smoking very much opium is like excessive brandy and gin drinking, leading to delirium tremens and premature death. After frequent consideration of the subject, during thirteen years, the last two spent at home, I can only say that though the substances are different, I can, as to the morality of producing, selling, and consuming them, see no difference at all; while the only difference I can observe in the consequences of consumption is that the opium-smoker is not so violent, so maudlin, or so disgusting as the drunkard. The clothes and breath of the confirmed and constant smoker are more or less marked by the peculiar, penetrating odour of opium; and he gets careless in time of washing from his hands the stains reared from the pipe. But all this is not more disagreeable than the beery, vinous, or ginny odour, and the want of cleanliness, that characterise the confirmed drunkard. In all other respects, the contrast is to the disadvantage of the drunkard."

"It is necessary to be explicit on this subject as highly immoral attempts have been made to liken opium trading to slave dealing,—the offering of what is in itself a most useful medicine to people, who are absolutely free to use it or misuse it as they please, with the forcible subjugation of free men to bodily suffering and mental degradation for life! The opium smokers, then, are like the alcohol-drinkers, whether these latter drink the alcohol in beer or wine, or in brandy, gin, or rum; the opium smoking houses are like beer-houses and gin-palaces; the opium merchants like wine merchants, and brandy, gin, and rum importers; and the opium producers like vine and hop growers, maltsters, brewers, and distillers."

A very large portion of Mr. Meadows's book is occupied with accounts of the internal administration of the Chinese empire, and especially with the system of competitive examination for official situations, in which he points out many features that might be usefully imitated by Great Britain, in regard to foreign as well as home appointments. On these subjects, amidst much diffuseness and repetition, some points are presented worthy of the consideration of our administrative reformers.

#### *Memorials of Captain Hedley Vicars, 97th Regiment.* Nisbet and Co.

A DESPATCH of Lord Raglan, reporting one of the most formidable night sorties during the siege of Sebastopol, announced the death of Captain Hedley Vicars, on the 23rd March, 1855. The Russians, advancing with great force, had got possession of a new parallel in the French approaches to the Malakoff tower, and passing along the parallel, and in rear of it, suddenly reached the English lines where their advances connected with the French trench. The despatch goes on to say:—

"The enemy was here met by detachments of the 77th and 97th Regiments, forming part of the

guard of the trenches, who, although thus taken suddenly both in flank and rear, behaved with the utmost gallantry and coolness.

"The detachment of the 97th, which was on the extreme right, and which consequently first came in contact with the enemy, repulsed the attack at the point of the bayonet.

"They were led by Captain Vicars, who, unfortunately, lost his life on the occasion; and I am assured that nothing could be more distinguished than the gallantry and good example which he set to the detachment under his command."

By the same post came many letters of regret and condolence on the loss of the officer whose gallant conduct was thus honourably signalled. How he stood with his brother officers the following extracts will show, while giving glimpses of his personal character:—

"Vicars was in the advanced parallel of our right attack, with a picket of his regiment. The enemy attacked the French lines close alongside where he lay; a ravine only separated them. They at first drove back the French, and part of them then turned to their right, crossed the ravine, and took our trench in flank. We were unprepared, and at first thought the advancing body was one of the French; but Vicars found out they were the Russians, and ordered his men to lie down, and wait till they came within twenty paces. When the enemy was close enough, Vicars shouted, 'Now, 97th, on your pins and charge!' They poured in a volley, charged, and drove the Russians quite out of the trench. Vicars himself struck down two Russians, and was in the act of cutting down a third with his sword, when another man, who was quite close (for the coat was singed) fired. The ball entered his uplifted right arm, close to where it joins the shoulder, and he fell. The main artery was divided, and he must have bled to death in a few minutes. Thus his end was as peaceful and painless as a soldier's death could be; and nothing could have been more noble, devoted, and glorious than his conduct in this, his first and last engagement. Surely this must afford some consolation to those who loved him."

Another companion wrote:—

"When I heard, at daylight this morning, that Vicars had been brought home dead, you may imagine my excessive grief. I loved that man as dearly as a brother; and it seems that I almost hear his voice sounding in my ears, as he read (two days ago) the Service—when some of us met on the day of humiliation."

"EVERY one liked and respected Vicars; even those who did not agree with his strict religion; and those who had known him so long as the leader of every mad riot, when, after closely watching him for years, and finding that, once enlisted in Christ's army, he NEVER flinched—at last gave in, and acknowledged that Vicars, at any rate, was a true Christian."

In similar strain wrote a brother officer of the 97th:—

"I can't tell you how much I felt the loss of poor Vicars. Ever since I joined the regiment he was one of my best friends in every sense of the word, always trying to do me good, both by example and advice; however, I have no doubt the poor fellow is much happier where he is; he fell, as he wished to fall, at the head of his men, leading them on to victory. I can't tell you how much his company loved him; and if you were to see the poor fellow's grave, how nicely they have done it round with stones and shells, showing in the only way they could how deeply they felt his loss!"

Not less affecting were the spontaneous tributes of grief and of affection, in letters written by privates of the regiment, the spirit of which is expressed in these words of his servant to the mother of his master:—

"The name of Captain Vicars is engraven on the hearts of the private soldiers of the 97th, with feelings of love and gratitude. I believe there is

not a man in the regiment but would have run any risk to have saved his life. I, as his servant, can assure you, he was a brother to me, and not as a master, though no gentleman could be more honoured and respected."

Another private of the regiment, a Roman Catholic, in acknowledging a letter of thanks for having recovered the body of the fallen hero, wrote as follows:—

"I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in acknowledging the receipt of your very kind note of the 20th of May, 1855, and its enclosure of half a sovereign; also the handsome good book you were so kind as to send me. I am sure I have not done anything to deserve such kindness; what I have done in striving to save the late beloved Captain Vicars any one soldier in the regiment would have done, for he was beloved by every one who knew him. His constant care was the best way he could contribute to the comfort of all under his command. As our adjutant, he was loved by every one in the regiment, and, as captain of No. 4 company, he was more so by his company. There is scarcely a man in the regiment who would not have gladly laid down his own life to save *his*; and we all feel sorrow when we think of our victory on the 22nd of March, on account of his loss."

The reasons for his being so beloved are soon told. Manly, brave, and generous, he was also a pattern of good conduct, and a minister of beneficence to all with whom he came in contact. While zealous and exemplary in all his professional duties, he was ever ready to do good as he had opportunity. By night or day he was at the call of the sick or the afflicted, and valuable assistance he rendered to the over-worked doctors and chaplains of the army. To the men of his own company he acted as a father and an evangelist, and he will long be remembered in his regiment with pride and affection. We need not, therefore, be surprised at the terms in which Lord Panmure, the Minister of War, spoke of his death:—

"I cannot but regard the death of Captain Vicars as a national calamity, as it has deprived the Queen and the nation of the services of an officer who was distinguished by his gallantry and devotion to the service."

We need add no more to recommend the perusal of the memoirs of such a man. In many respects the biography is calculated to be useful. Of the lessons taught by his life, one of the most practical is found in the way in which he harmonised professional with what he deemed higher duties. Many officers, on acquiring deep religious convictions, have left the army and entered the church, thinking that thus they would have wider sphere of usefulness. Hedley Vicars determined to do his duty in the station which Providence had appointed, and once, when in the West Indies, said, on this subject, that "had he felt as he now did when he was seventeen, he certainly should not have been a soldier; but, as it is, death alone should ever make him leave his colours." In the words of his biographer,—"When called to God's service, he found his mission-field in the camp and in the hospital. He lived, during months of sickness and pestilence, to commend the religion he professed to all around him—while he pursued the duties of his profession with distinguished ardour and constancy." The story of his life few will follow without respect, nor read of his death without emotion. It is a choice piece of biography; the memorial of a truly Christian soldier.

*The Crown Ward.* By Archibald Boyd. 3 vols. Bentley.

*The Old Grey Church.* By the Author of 'Trevelyan.' 3 vols. Bentley.

'THE Crown Ward' is one of the best historical romances that has lately appeared. Mr. Boyd has made a bold venture on ground where Sir Walter Scott had previously been, but the interest of the subject diminishes the risk of unpleasant comparisons being suggested. The story is one of the times of James I., and the main plot narrates the adventures of Mary Ker, a famous beauty of the Scottish court, who was married to the warden of the western marches, 'the bold Buccleugh,' and from them sprung the family that now bears that dual name. Many of the notable personages of the period are introduced, and a succession of stirring incidents gives animation to the tale. James I. and his Queen, Anne of Denmark, Lord Scrope, the English warden of the marches, Sir Henry Wotton, who, under the name and disguise of Octavio Baldi, an Italian, executed a secret mission to the Scottish court, Kimmont Willie, the lawless borderer, Andrew Barton, equally notorious on the seas in those days, are among the prominent figures in the narrative. We cannot give any outline of the story, which is as crowded with events as a whole volume of old border ballads, nor can we enter on any discussion as to the historical fidelity of some of the representations of character, but we are certain that few readers who are partial to works of the class will fail to be amused by the story. One extract only we select to show the style of the narrative, being the close of the chapter containing the account of the rescue of Kimmont Willie from the dungeon of Carlisle castle, a feat well known in border history, tradition, and song:—

"'And now, Willie, my man,' said the friendly Borderer, 'I must get ye on my back, for we hae na a minute to lose. In anither half hour the place will be ower het for us. So we maun be aff.'

"'No yet,' said Willie, 'I hae a tryst to keep. I promised, ere I leave him, to bid Lord Scrope farewell.'

"'Are ye gane clean mad, man?'

"'Mad or no, ye maun tak' me to the Captain's window, or I wunna gang.'

"'Weel—weel! A wiflu' man maun hae his way,' and with the words he proceeded with his burden to the great gate, that led into the inner ward.

"'I promised to bid you gude bye, my lord,' said the undaunted Borderer, 'and I hae keptit my word.'

"'Is that you, you young scoundrel?' said the English Warden, unable to control his irritation. 'Go and be hanged.'

"'No the day,' replied Willie, with a chuckle. 'I'm sorry to disappoint your Lordship, but our merry meeting is put off till a mair convenient season. Sae ance mair fare ye weel.'

"His adieux were scarcely permitted to be concluded, for his impatient bearer had already commenced his return to the postern. As soon as he had reached it, the great object of the enterprise being now accomplished, preparations were made for departure.

"Willie was carried down the steep ascent, and was placed upon the most active of the cart-horses, but side-saddle fashion; for, in the hurry, they had been unable to find the key of his fetters, and the chain connecting the two ankles forbade the usual method of riding. Once more the troop mounted, and approached the river. To facilitate their crossing, fires had been lighted at the two edges of the little valley, whose narrow confines

offered the sole landing-place. Slowly and safely they made the ground, till, at length, the whole band reached the opposite bank. They mounted the gully, and on gaining the summit of the ridge, moved as before for half a mile parallel with the town. Then, as if by a common impulse, rose the favourite Border song:—

'Wha daur meddle wi' me?  
'Wha daur meddle wi' me?  
My name is little Jock Elliott,  
And wha daur meddle wi' me?'

"Amid the dim morning light, the spectral-like figures were eagerly watched, from housetop and window, by the affrighted townsfolk. One by one did the hostile files disappear behind the ridge, but still, as the wind lulled, there came upon the ear, though fainter and more faint, the triumphant chorus of the moss-troopers, and the wild notes of their Border song."

THE story of 'The Old Grey Church' is simple, but in the management of the incidents unusual skill is shown, and the book is written in a clear and flowing style, which makes it pleasant to read. The writer has also had courage to discuss topics generally tabooed in light literature, or introduced only for the purpose of sarcasm or ridicule, except in that usually dull and dreary class of publications known as religious novels. While sympathizing with the pervading spirit and the general principles of the book, there are some points in which narrow views appear, and a turn is given to the story repugnant to right feeling. In few words it may be told that the hero of the tale is Eustace Grey, a model young clergyman of the 'Evangelical' school, who loves his cousin, Lucy Lushington, a lively, amiable, and beautiful girl, and after various hindrances the object of his early dreams and aspirations is within his reach. But at this crisis the young lover, who has become 'very serious,' comes to the conclusion that it would be wrong to marry a 'worldly' woman, however angelic naturally. A great struggle and conflict of feelings takes place, the upshot of which is that Eustace renounces Lucy, and in the bitterness of his spirit expatriates himself as a missionary to India. Lucy is involved further in the vortex of fashionable life, but troubles overtake her, and she is unhappy. She was supposed to be a wealthy heiress, but her father, a banker, ignominiously fails, and she is reduced to distress, her unprincipled husband, Sir Alexander Melville, having deserted her when the crash came. Mr. Lushington, convicted of forgery, has a felon's death, but while in Newgate he wrote to narrate and explain all to Eustace, confiding to him also the secret that an estate rightly belonged to him which had been supposed to belong to Lucy. He did not know then that his daughter was married, for this had been done quietly and hastily. Eustace returns to England, and after much search discovers the object of his still unsubsided affection, as the village teacher in the parish of an old college friend. Her husband had fled to the Continent, leaving Lucy to support her aged mother and an infant child. Eustace, seeing Lucy's miserable lot, and dreading the renewal of feelings which now would be unquestionably sinful, soon betakes himself back to his work in the East. He dies in Burmah, sending home to his cousin his Bible, in which were inscribed dates commemorative of early happy days, and a few affectionate words of farewell and of benediction. The moral of the whole story is supposed to be that true happiness is not to be derived from the world, and that religion requires all sacrifices, even the most cherished objects, when interfering with duty. On this ground the reader is ex-



pected to regard Eustace with admiration, on account of giving up his attachment to Lucy. One can understand in the abstract how a clergyman may be afraid of a worldly wife proving a hindrance to him in his professional work as well as in his personal character, but the illustration of the principle in this story seems to us most unhappy. In truth Eustace behaved more like a brute than a hero in deserting Lucy as he did. Here is part of the account of their last interview before he set off for India:—

"These words of Eustace somehow raised a feeling of vague alarm in the mind of Lucy, and, looking up in his face, she said anxiously,—

"You talk as if you were going away. What do you mean, Eustace? You are not really going away?"

"Yes, you know I told you I was going out of town for a few days."

"And that is all you mean—is it not?" said she; "you are not going to leave London altogether?"

"He made no answer, but continued gazing upon her with such an intense earnestness, as if he wished to imprint upon the retina of his memory—never to be effaced—every feature of her beloved countenance. 'Well, I suppose I really must go now,' he again repeated, with a deep sigh. But still there he sat beside her, his eyes still riveted upon her face. On a sudden he grasped her hand in both of his. Lucy actually started, for they were icy cold."

"What is it makes you so cold, Eustace? Are you not well?"

"Oh, I don't know," he replied, "I believe I am what you ladies call nervous, but it is nothing. Your hand will warm me," he added, with an odd, wild, excited expression on his countenance, and he still more closely clasped it in his own."

"In a minute or two he again, on a sudden, once more started up from the couch: 'Good night, Lucy—and good bye,'—he added, in a lower tone; 'may God watch over and protect you!'"

"These last words did not reach the ears of Lucy, so breathless was the voice of him who uttered them. He rushed to the door immediately—closed it after him—and he was gone!"

And why was she thus abandoned by one who could have protected her, and who had influence over her mind such as no other could ever hope to gain? Merely because the young girl, full of life and spirit, was honest enough to tell her cousin that she could see no wrong in the opera and other entertainments, in the eschewing of which, and in certain formal observances of the Church, the author of this book too much fancies real religion to consist; as if Lady Rachel Russell, for instance, were not as thoroughly good a Christian, even in the corrupt court of the Stuarts, as the sourest puritan of the day, who would rank dancing among deadly crimes. The honesty and naturalness of Lucy Lushington were worth a hundred artificial exhibitions of piety, fruit merely tied on to the boughs of a tree, not growing out of it. Then again, Eustace, in going as a missionary to India, was prompted as much by personal vexation as by philanthropic fervour, and throughout his history there is a selfishness and a sternness that are repulsive. His union with his cousin would have improved the character of both, and the possible advantages of his ultimate lot do not repress contempt for his unmanly, fanatical, and selfish abandonment of the girl whose whole heart he could have won, and the details of whose conduct he might have gradually moulded to his own views. If we had not been pleased with the style of the book, and interested in the story, we should not have made these criticisms.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*The Crimean Expedition to the Capture of Sebastopol: Chronicles of the War in the East, from its Commencement to the Signing of the Treaty of Peace.* By the Baron de Bazancourt. Translated from the French by Robert Howe Gould, M.A. 2 vols. Low, Son, and Co.

*History of the Consulate and the Empire of France under Napoleon, forming a Sequel to 'The History of the French Revolution.'* By M. A. Thiers, translated by John Stebbing, Esq. Vol. XII. Willis and Sothman.

*Wanderings in North Africa.* By James Hamilton. Murray.

*The Linesman; or, Service in the Guards and the Line during England's Long Peace and Little Wars.* By Colonel Elers Napier. 3 vols. Hyde.

*History of the Jewish Nation after the Destruction of Jerusalem under Titus.* By the Rev. Alfred Edersheim, Ph.D. Constable and Co.

*On the Variation of Species, with special reference to the Insects: followed by an Inquiry into the Nature of Genera.* By T. Vernon Wollaston, M.A., F.L.S. Van Voorst.

*America by River and Rail; or, Notes by the Way on the New World and its People.* By William Ferguson, F.L.S. Nisbet and Co.

*California: its Gold and its Inhabitants.* By the Author of 'Seven Years on the Slave Coast of Africa.' 2 vols. T. C. Newby.

*Flemish Interiors.* By the Writer of 'A Glance behind the Grilles.' Longman and Co.

*Beaumarchais and his Times: Sketches of French Society in the Eighteenth Century, from Unpublished Documents.* By Louis De Loménie. Translated by H. S. Edwards. Vols. I. and II. Addey and Co.

*Hertha.* By Fredrika Bremer. Translated by Mary Howitt. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

*Stories of an Old Maid related to her Nephews and Nieces.* Translated from the French of M<sup>lle</sup>. Emile de Girardin by A. Elwes. With Sixteen Illustrations by Gustave Doré and G. Path. Addey and Co.

*Sabbath Evening Readings on the New Testament—The Acts.* By the Rev. John Cumming, D.D., F.R.S.E. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

*The Lost of the Patriarchs; or, Lessons chiefly from the Life of Joseph.* By the Rev. John Cumming, D.D., F.R.S.E. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

*A Plain Commentary on the Book of Psalms.* (The Prayer-book Version. Psalms 1—20. Part I.) J. H. and J. Parker.

*The Christian's Sacrifice.* By Robert S. Candlish, D.D. Nisbet and Co.

*Memoir of the Life and Times of John Carpenter, Town Clerk of London in the Reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI., and Founder of the City of London School.* By Thomas Brewer, Secretary of the School.

*The Channel Islands, Pictorial, Legendary, and Descriptive.* By Octavius Cooke. Booth.

*Hardwicke's Annual Biography for 1856: containing Original and Selected Memoirs of Celebrated Characters who have died during the year 1855.* By Edward Walford, M.A. Hardwicke.

*St. Bartholomew's Day: a Summer's Tale, 1572. And other Poems.* By Stewart Lockyer. Saunders and Otley.

*Transactions of the Surrey Archaeological Society for the years 1854, 1855.* Vol. I., Part I. J. R. Smith.

Of the complete work of the Baron de Bazancourt, the appearance of the second volume of which is noticed in our Foreign Summary, an English translation is now published. Notwithstanding the statement of the 'Moniteur,' these chronicles of the Russian war, and of the siege of Sebastopol, will always be regarded as semi-official. M. de Bazancourt was sent with a special commission to collect materials for the history of the war; he went under the sanction of the Minister of War, and was under the protection of the commander-in-chief, who tolerated none of the newspaper caterers by whom the English camp was infested. Not that great service was not rendered by 'our own correspondents' in matters within the province of reporters, but it was not without severe measures being threatened that they were kept from hurtful indiscretion in publishing military intelligence. The French have not suffered, in their military or historical reputation, by the delay in the appearance of an authorised report of the events of the war. M. de Bazancourt's memorials will afford valuable materials for history, and though admitting of correction in some important points, give, on the whole, a faithful as well as graphic representation of the Crimean campaign from the French point of view.

The continuation of the history of an older period of French military renown, that of the Consulate and the Empire, by M. Thiers, vol. xii., translated by Mr. Stebbing, is chiefly occupied with an account of the continental blockade, its operation and results, and the story of the Peninsular war, from the battle of Talavera to that of Albuera.

The novel of the Linesman, or Service in the

Guards and the Line, excels in detached sketches of military life rather than in the art of the story. The gallant author pleads inexperience in this line of literature, and allowance may be made for a first attempt in the field of fiction. But there is much of the book that relates to stern matters of fact, and while the tale of the Linesman will afford amusement to some readers, others will regard it as an attack, in true Napier style, on the abuses of army administration, and a plea for military reform. The title of the novel gives a wrong impression of its topics and spirit, the inequalities of the service in the Guards and the Line being only incidentally discussed, and the author's suggestions on this particular subject being such as must approve themselves to most men who wish well to the service. But on the general management of the army Colonel Napier does not refrain from frankly stating his views. It is a book which the military authorities would put into an *index expurgatorius* if they could. It will be perused, however, with avidity by professional and non-professional readers, and may do the state some service. The sketches of camp life, especially in India, are graphic, and in general truthful, though it must be remembered that in this, as in other respects, there has been great improvement of late years.

Dr. Edersheim has written a concise and comprehensive history of the Jewish nation from the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus to the final dispersion. It is surprising that no work on the subject, including the modern history of the Jews, has yet appeared in this country. Some German writers have laboriously compiled materials, which have proved of much use to Dr. Edersheim in the preparation of his work. It communicates information not elsewhere readily accessible, not only as to the external history of the Jews in different regions, but as to their social and religious institutions and usages. The author, now a Scottish clergyman, is of Jewish birth, and possesses also the qualifications of learning and industry necessary for undertaking such a work. It is a valuable contribution to a department of historical literature which has received comparatively little attention in this country.

On the much vexed and important question of the variation of species, Mr. Wollaston has brought his entomological experience usefully to bear. His studies of insects and molluscs in the island of Madeira have afforded him opportunity of observing the effects of climatal and insular influences in modifying characters. The general conclusions of Mr. Wollaston confirm the belief in the fixedness of species in nature, but tend to prove that the species as described in books are only to be received as such after long and varied observation. Many remarkable instances are given of varieties as much differing from one another as species far removed in the descriptions and definitions of book-naturalists.

Mr. Ferguson's volume on America deserves attention amidst the crowd of similar books from the author having traversed routes different from those usually followed, and from his reports relating to some of the inner circles of social life as well as to the political and public phases of republican society, which are less likely to impress favourably a traveller from the old country. Mr. Ferguson's visit was made in 1855.

The Notes on California are acceptable as being from a journal regularly kept by the author during his residence, and faithfully recording the writer's impressions of the country and its people on the spot. It refers, however, to the year 1852, since which there has been some improvement in the society of the place.

The Memoirs of Beaumarchais and his Times have already attracted no little notice, as they appeared originally in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. M. de Loménie has since re-written and re-published the work, of which an English translation is now presented. Apart from his celebrity as the author of the Marriage of Figaro, Beaumarchais was one of the most extraordinary men of the eighteenth century, and it is surprising that no formal memoir of a career so singular and romantic has been be-



fore written. It is a work which will be read with great interest, both from the remarkable biography, and from the sketches of French society during his time.

In Mary Howitt, Miss Bremer has a congenial as well as capable interpreter, and the story of Hertha is presented with every advantage to English readers.

The work of another foreign authoress of note, Madame Emile de Girardin, whose loss was sorely felt and will long be deplored, is introduced to youthful readers in an attractive form. The stories of an old maid related to her nephews and nieces, are translated by Mr. A. Elwes, and illustrated with sixteen designs by Gustave Doré and G. Fath. Pleasant tales they are, such as will excite the interest of the young, and while amusing the fancy, will encourage genial and generous feelings.

Dr. Cumming has published two more volumes of his popular and practical expositions of the sacred scriptures, the one a continuation of the Sabbath Evening Readings on the New Testament—on the Acts of the Apostles; and the other entitled *The Last of the Patriarchs, or Lessons chiefly from the Life of Joseph*. Like all Dr. Cumming's writings, they are evangelical in tone, popular in style, and catholic in spirit.

Dr. Candlish's treatise on Christian Sacrifice consists of discourses preached by this distinguished Scottish divine in Edinburgh, and in the Scottish church, Regent-square, London.

The Memoir of John Carpenter contains the will, now first published, and some particulars of the personal history of the benevolent citizen of that name, whose bequest formed the basis on which the City of London School was founded. Notices of the history of the school, and of its present endowments and operations, are appended. Mr. Brewer, secretary of the school, has collected some interesting archaeological matter relating to old periods of London, as well as to the personal career of Carpenter, who was town clerk in the reigns of Henry V. and Henry VI. John Carpenter was one of the executors of the renowned Lord Mayor Whittington. Among the literary curiosities in the appendix is a list of the books belonging to Carpenter, mentioned in his will, of which biographical notices are given by the editor.

The want of a Guide-Book to the Channel Islands has led Mr. Rooke to compile a little manual, that will afford useful and pleasant information to visitors. The volume is embellished with good wood-cuts.

Hardwicke's Annual Biography contains original and selected memoirs of personages, described on the title-page as 'Celebrated Characters who have Died during the Year 1855.' The celebrity may be wisely dispensed with in future volumes. Names unknown to fame are noted as well as the more illustrious. The casualties of the war swell the list in the obituary of military men, for the memoirs are roughly arranged under separate heads, commencing with royalty, and ending with literary and scientific, foreign and miscellaneous. Some errors we have noted, but they are excusable in the first issue of such a work. The editor ought, however, to exert all effort to secure accuracy. In regard to the memoirs, most of them are taken from obituary notices in newspapers and periodicals, the sources not being always fairly acknowledged. Several paragraphs are quoted from the 'Gentleman's Magazine,' which were copied from the columns of the 'Literary Gazette.' This journal, we may remark in passing, was established by Mr. Colburn, in 1817, not 1825, as stated at p. 279. There is an obituary memoir of Todleben, the defender of Sebastopol, who is at this time, if we are not mistaken, commandant of Cronstadt.

The Surrey Archaeological Society have issued their first instalment of Transactions in a neatly printed part of ninety-six pages, illustrated with a map of the Roman road between Silchester and Staines, 2 plates of ancient British coins, 4 plates of mural paintings formerly existing in Lingfield Church, and a plate containing an admirable engraving of an ancient weapon discovered in a tumulus at Teddington. The papers contained in

the No. are all of more or less local importance. The Society has acquired an interesting collection of publications, manuscripts, drawings, photographs, engravings, and rubbings, as the nucleus of a museum and library, and we trust an increase of members will enable the Council to provide premises that will allow of their being exposed for exhibition and reference.

#### New Editions.

*A Dictionary of Botanical Terms.* By the Rev. J. S. Henslow, M.A. Illustrated by nearly 200 Cuts. Groombridge and Sons.

*The Poetical Works of Alexander Pope. With Memoir, Critical Dissertation, and Explanatory Notes,* by the Rev. George Gilfillan. Vol. I. Edinburgh: J. Nichol.

*Irish Melodies.* By Thomas Moore. Longman and Co.

*The Trachiniae of Sophocles. With short English Notes, for the Use of Schools.* J. H. and J. Parker.

*Florum Sacra.* By the Rev. George Hunt Smyttan, B.A. Second Edition. J. H. and J. Parker.

*Courtenay's Dictionary of Abbreviations.* By Edward S. C. Courtenay, Esq. New and Enlarged Edition. Groombridge and Sons.

THE Botanical Dictionary of Professor Henslow contains a copious list of the technical terms used in the science, with accounts of the derivations and explanatory illustrations. It is a most comprehensive and practical manual of botanical terminology. The work appeared originally in the form of supplements to Maud's Botanist, and Maud's Botanic Garden.

The Memoir of Pope by George Gilfillan, prefixed to the first volume of Nichol's Edinburgh edition of the British Poets, is unsatisfactory in the extreme, being little more than a list of dates, with comments that show the writer's want of familiarity or sympathy with the literature of that time.

In the convenient and elegant series of the Oxford Pocket Classics, published by the Messrs. Parker, appear short notes to the seven plays of Sophocles. Also the Trachiniae of Sophocles, with English notes, for the use of schools.

Courtenay's Dictionary of Abbreviations is a useful little book of reference. Generally its information is accurate, but there are occasional errors, and definitions unintelligible. Thus we have F.R.S. et A.S., *Fraternitatis Regie Socius et Associatus*,—Fellow and Associate of the Royal Society. The Royal Society has no Associates. F.S.A. and F.A.S. are confusedly given in another paragraph as 'Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries,' and 'Fac secundum artem,' Fellow of the Society of Arts not being mentioned.

#### Miscellaneous, Pamphlets, &c.

*Vindication of George, First Lord Dartmouth, from the Charge of Conspiracy or High Treason, brought against him in the year 1691, and revived by Macaulay in his 'History of England,' 1855.* By Frederick Devon, Assistant Keeper of Records. Upham and Beet.

*Short Notes to the Seven Plays of Sophocles.* J. H. and J. Parker.

*A Manual of Prayers for the Use of Schools.* J. H. and J. Parker.

*A Lecture on the Philosophy of Kant.* By Henry L. Mansel, B.D. J. H. and J. Parker.

*On Metallic Boats and Floating Waggon for Naval and Military Service, with some Observations on American Life-preserving Cars.* By Major Vincent Eyre, F.R.G.S. Smith, Elder, and Co.

*The Rise and Progress of British Opium Smuggling.* By Major-General R. Alexander. Seeley and Co.

*Poems.* By James Sykes, Head Master of the Scarborough Grammar School. Printed for the Author.

*A Fragmentary Poem on the Crimean War.* By a Civilian. Groombridge and Sons.

*Cottage Pictures from the Old Testament.* J. H. and J. Parker.

THE Vindication of Lord Dartmouth contains the most damaging charges yet brought against the accuracy of Mr. Macaulay as a historian. In other cases, including that of Penn, authorities are carefully cited, and by these every one may form his own judgment of character. But with regard to Lord Dartmouth, wrong references are given, and documents are quoted which, according to Mr. Devon, accustomed to researches amidst the public archives, have no connexion with the subject. This is a charge upon which, without further inquiry, we cannot pass an opinion. There must have been some oversight either in Mr. Devon's search or in the historian's references. It will certainly be strange if Mr. Macaulay has no other

authority for denouncing Dartmouth than the worthless book, Clark's Life of James II., when Burnet and King William himself acknowledged that the Admiral had been sent to the Tower on a groundless suspicion.

The Manual of Prayers is compiled chiefly from the works of Laud, Andrews, Wilson, Ken, and devotional writers of other times.

Mr. Mansel's Lecture on the Philosophy of Kant was delivered at Magdalen College, where he is reader in Moral and Metaphysical Philosophy. It forms a good introduction to the study of German metaphysical works.

Major Eyre's treatise on Metallic Boats and Floating Waggon was delivered in the form of a lecture at the United Service Institution, where his statements elicited the warm approval of distinguished engineers and military men present. Testimonials to the merit of the inventions are appended to the treatise, which deserves the attention of the military authorities. The metallic boats have also been successfully used in America as life boats for saving from shipwreck, and this application of them is also urged by Major Eyre.

The brochure of Major Alexander on the Opium Trade contains a well-arranged summary of statistics on the subject, with cogent arguments and earnest appeals for the suppression of the traffic. 'One sentence from a despatch of the East India Company' says the author, 'would, if acted on, settle the whole question;' were it possible to prevent the use of the drug, except strictly for the purpose of medicine, we would gladly do it in compassion to mankind. The real difficulties are solely financial, the revenue of the East India Company depending largely on opium cultivation, of which it retains a monopoly.

The Cottage Bible pictures include about thirty well-selected subjects, and both drawing and colouring are of a kind to arrest the eye and strike the imagination of the classes for whose benefit they are intended.

#### Foreign Summary.

Paris, June 10th, 1856.

THE Baron de Bazancourt has brought out the second and last volume of his 'Histoire de l'Expédition de Crimée,' and, like the first one, it contains a good deal of very interesting matter, and some important extracts from official documents. The *Moniteur*, by the way, has asserted in a paragraph that the government is not responsible for what the book says or the views it takes. But this is an afterthought, for it is well known that the author was sent out to the Crimea by the government to write the book, and has had every facility afforded him, by the communication of despatches and papers, and by conversations with generals and others, to execute his task in accordance with governmental views. On dit that the disclaimer in the *Moniteur* was made in consequence of the English Cabinet having complained that gross injustice is done to the English in the book; and to its having hinted that it would be obliged to publish despatches from Lord Raglan and others, showing that the French were not quite so pre-eminently excellent in all things as they take pleasure in believing. Victor Hugo's *Contemplations* have attained a second edition—as much, perhaps, from political sympathy for him as from admiration of his poetic genius. M. de Pontmartin, one of the most eminent critics of the day, has published in a volume, under the title of 'Les Dernières Causes Littéraires,' a selection of his more remarkable articles from the *Assemblée Nationale*. Of histories of the siege of Sebastopol there is no lack,—and they are good, bad, and indifferent: but thus far we find that that great event has only produced one scientific publication, and that is a Catalogue and Description of Plants gathered there by two botanists, Dr. Saint Supéry and Captain Belleville. A book entitled 'Les Consommations de Paris,' by A. Husson, showing what the immense capital eats and drinks, and where it gets it, will interest some readers. Reprints of the famous 'Mémoires du Duc de Saint Simon,' which contain most important revelations on the courts and court life of

Louis XIV. and the Regent, are brought out by rival publishers, at prices to suit both the wealthy and the poor. They were very much needed, the book having become exceedingly scarce.

A work, entitled 'Algérie Française,' by M. C. de Feuille, may be consulted with advantage by all who take interest in that colony, which has cost the French so much blood and treasure, and which is now, according to all accounts, about to become a source of great profit. The first volume of a series of 'Annales de l'Observatoire Impérial de Paris,' by M. le Verrier, Director of the Observatory, has appeared; the name of the eminent author will suffice to recommend it strongly to scientific men. M. F. de Lasteyrie, so well known for the interest he takes in the art of painting on glass, has arrived at the 30th part of his very excellent and gorgeously illustrated, but rather expensive (36l.) 'Histoire de la Peinture sur verre d'après ses Monumens en France.' M. Th. Lacordaire gives us the third volume of his 'Histoire Naturelle des Insectes.' Under the title 'Architecture Monastique,' M. Lenoir, of the Department of Public Instruction, supplies a new collection of unpublished documents and illustrations on the history of France. As attention will now begin to be turned to Russian literature, a translation of a series of Russian tales, entitled 'Les Contes Russes,' by M. Douhaire, may be commended. M. de Renuat, the celebrated expatriate, has reprinted from the 'Revue des Deux Mondes,' under the title 'L'Angleterre au Dix-huitième Siècle,' his valuable series of papers about England and Englishmen. The first three parts of the promised 'Archives de la Commission des Monumens Historiques,' published by order of the Minister of State, have appeared. Captain Guillaud, of the Imperial Navy, publishes, by order of the Government, a series of 'Documents sur l'Histoire, la Géographie, et le Commerce de l'Afrique Orientale': they are of undoubted value. M. Victor Cousin prints another volume of 'Etudes on the celebrated women and society of the eighteenth century; the subject of it is Madame de Chevreuse. Count d'Escayrac de Sauture reprints, in a popular form, valuable 'Mémoires,' read by him before the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, on the geography and social condition of Central Africa. Finally, a translation into verse of Shakespeare's 'Poems and Sonnets,' by M. Lafont, may, if only for the rarity of the thing, be mentioned.

#### List of New Books.

- Africa's Mountain Valley, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
After the Wedding, 12mo, boards, 2s.  
Amy Grant, or the One Nature, 12mo, cloth, 2nd edition, 3s. 6d.  
Benvenuto Cellini's Life, royal 8vo, sewed, 2s.; cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Bickersley's (Rev. E.) Memoir, 2 vols, fcap, cl, 5th edit., 10s.  
Blunt's (J. J.) Duties of the Parish Priest, post 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Boulton's (T. B.) Chronicles of Ancient Faith, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
Brown's (J.) Concordance, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
Chancellor's Catechism of the Descriptive Geography of England, 1s. 3d.  
Clerk Howard, small crown 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
Concordance to the Medical Poems, post 8vo, cloth, 6s.  
Crane's (W.) Catechism of the Creed, fcap, 8vo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
Cunning's (Dr.) Last of the Patriarchs, 12mo, cloth, 6s.  
——— Sabbath Evening Readings on the Acts, 12mo, 7s.  
Daley's (W.) Wild Flowers and Fruits: Poems, 12mo, cl, gilt, 4s.  
Dax's Book of Costs, post 8vo, cloth, 15s.  
Dill's (R.) Prelatice-Presbyterianism, post 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.  
Edersheim's (A.) History of the Jewish Nation, crown 8vo, 7s. 6d.  
Exceeding Great and Precious Promises, 8vo, cloth, 2s.  
Excellior, 8vo, cloth, Vol. 5, 4s.  
Family Life, 18mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.  
Ferguson's (W.) America, 8vo, cloth, 14s.  
Ferreira's Caravan Journey in America, 8vo, cloth, 2l. 1s.  
Fraser's (A. C.) Essays on Philosophy, crown 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Glasgow's (F. J.) Justification by Faith, 12mo, cloth, 3s.  
Hamilton's (J.) North Africa, post 8vo, cloth, 12s.  
Harris's (J.) Lays from the Mine, 8c, 12mo, cloth, 4s.  
Herk, by F. Bremer, translated by M. Howitt, post 8vo, cl., 7s. 6d.  
Hetherington's (W. A.) Westminster Divines, crown 8vo, cl., 5s.  
Hodge's (C.) Commentary on the Ephesians, crown 8vo, cl., 3s. 6d.  
Hogg's Instructor, Vol. 6, royal 8vo, cloth, 6s. 6d.  
Roman Nature Considered in its Connected Relationship to God, 5s.  
Lamp (The) of Life, fcap, 8vo, cloth, 5s.  
Lardner's Museum of Science and Art, 5th double volume, 3s. 6d.  
Lever's (C.) Martins of Cor-Martin, 8vo, cloth, 2l. 1s.  
Locke's (J.) Games, translated by M. Howitt, post 8vo, cl., 12s. 6d.  
Maury's (M. F.) Physical Geography of the Sea, royal 8vo, cl., 10s.  
Maury's (J.) Discourses, 8vo, cloth, 7s.  
Napier's (Col.) Lineament, 3 vols, post 8vo, cloth, 2l. 11s. 6d.  
Owen's (Jas.) Stepping-Stone to Natural History, 2 parts, 1s. each.  
——— in cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Petrarch's (W.) by Dobson, royal 8vo, sewed, 2s.; cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Rhyming Dictionary for Young Poets, crown 8vo, cloth, 4s. 6d.  
Saylor, or Courier in the East, 2nd edition, fcap, boards, 2s. 6d.  
Shaw's (J.) Rambles through the United States, 8vo, cl., 12s. 6d.  
Sinclair's (C.) Scotland and the Scotch, crown 8vo, boards, 2s. 6d.  
——— Shetland, &c., crown 8vo, boards, 2s. 6d.  
——— Hill and Valley, crown 8vo, boards, 2s. 6d.  
Smith's (A.) Portico, Legacy, 12mo, boards, 2s.; cloth, 2s. 6d.  
Strickland's (Miss J.) Adoniam, fcap, boards, 1s. 6d.

Tinkler's (J.) Scripture and Tradition, 12mo, cloth, 11mp, 1s. 6d.  
Traveller's Library, complete, 25 vols., square, cloth, 43 5s.  
Universal Library, Vol. 7: Biography, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.  
Wall's (C.) Ancient Orthography of the Jews, Vol. 1, Part 3, 10s.  
Wells's (A.) Wanderings in the High Alps, post 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.

#### ARTICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS.

##### MARRIAGE DISTAFF IN THE HÔTEL DE CLUNY AT PARIS.

AMONG the numerous relics of ancient art, in the collection of the Hôtel de Cluny at Paris, is the object represented in the engraving—a Quenouille de Mariage, or Marriage Distaff. This elegant implement is of sculptured wood, and the work of the sixteenth century. It is probably from the hand of an Italian artist, if we may judge from its resemblance to a sculptured distaff exhibited at a recent meeting of the Society of Antiquaries by Mr. Augustus Franks. On that occasion Mr. Akerman, the Secretary, read a communication 'On the Distaff and the Spindle, as the Insignia of the Female Sex in Former Times,' the purport of which was to show, from various sources, not merely the antiquity of spinning as an art, but the constant reference to these implements as the distinguishing badge of women in all ages and countries. Spinning is mentioned on several occasions by Homer, and the story of the Peonian woman, passing before Darius, with a vase upon her head, leading a horse by the bridle, and spinning as she walked with it to water, is well known from the narrative of Herodotus. There are several allusions to spinning and weaving in Holy Writ, and a passage in the Proverbs of Solomon, who quotes a still more ancient authority, shows that the Jewish women used the distaff and spindle, although the Egyptian tombs of Beni-Hassan bear representations of women of that country engaged in spinning without the distaff, but using a spindle with each hand, a proficiency which does not appear to have been attained by the people of any other country, although in a painting from the walls of Pompeii, in the Museo Borbonico, two spindles are represented, and no distaff appears. Whether the Egyptian mode of spinning was known to, and practised by, other countries, is a question for the archaeologist. It is worthy of remark that the whirls of the spindles in this representation are placed on the upper part, as in the Egyptian spindles, and not on the lower part, as was the practice with the Greeks and Romans, and in more modern times, until the primitive mode of spinning partly fell into disuse. Mr. Akerman exhibited casts of several coins of Tarentum, in the collection of the British Museum. On some of these pieces the hero Taras is represented seated in a chair, on others riding on a dolphin. He holds in his hands various objects, and some of the types represent him holding a spindle, probably allusive to the glossy wool of the Tarentines mentioned by ancient authors, or to the manufacture of purple cloth, in exchange for which they obtained all the luxuries of the ancient world. Among the Romans, Caia Cecilia, or Tanaquil, the charming wife of Tarquin, was honoured as a good housewife and an industrious spinner, her distaff and spindle, according to Pliny, being long preserved in the Temple of Sangus, while her husband's royal robe, the work of her hands, was kept as one of the sacred things in the Temple of Fortune; hence, according to the same author, the distaff and spindle was always carried before the Roman bride. Pliny also mentions an ancient rural law in Italy which forbade the women to spin without doors, it being considered a bad omen to meet a woman thus employed, and especially injurious to the crops. A similar superstition once prevailed in France; if a man on horseback encountered a woman engaged in spinning, he was warned to return by the way he came, and take another route.

Among the people of Teutonic race, the designation of "spear half" and "spindle half" expressed the male and female line, and the spear and the spindle are yet found in Teutonic graves. The great Alfred, in his will, thus speaks of and distinguishes his relations; and among the Franks, the choice of a distaff or a sword decided the fate

of a free woman who had attached herself to a slave; while to this day the jurists of Germany use the terms "Schwert Magen" and "Spindel Magen." According to Hartknoch, the Prussians, before their conversion to Christianity, placed a distaff with the body of the deceased woman on the funeral pile. Proverbs, allusive to these implements, were quoted from various languages. The writer then passed to the superstitions connected in old times with spinning and weaving. Brand, in his 'Popular Antiquities,' speaks of "St. Distaff's Day," commemorated by Herriek in his 'Hesperides.' The subject had perplexed Nares as well as Brand; neither of these writers appears to have suspected a trace of heathenism, which still lurked in the observances of St. Distaff's day. Mr. Akerman identifies St. Distaff with the Teutonic divinity Friga, observing that the three stars in the Belt of Orion were called Friga Rock, a designation subsequently changed to Maria Rock. Superstitions regarding spinning still survive among all the northern nations. There is a Swedish tradition that there must be no spinning on Thursday evening, nor in Passion-week, or there will be spinning in the night. Among the Danes nothing that runs round must be set in motion from Christmas-day till New-year's-day; there must consequently be neither spinning nor winding. Among the traditions of North Germany is one, that there should be no spinning on Saturday evening. They have a story that there were two old women, good friends, and the most indefatigable spinners in the village. Their work did not cease even on Saturday evenings. At length one of them died, but on the following Saturday she appeared to the other, busy at her usual employment, and showed her her burning hand, saying—

"Sieh, was ich in der Hölle gewann,  
Weil ich am Sonnabendabend spann!"

"See, what I in Hell have won,  
Because on Saturday we spun!"

All these superstitions Mr. Akerman regards as relics of ancient heathenism, against which Christianity so long warred, and of which traces yet linger among our peasantry. Allusions to Frau Berehta, the more modern name of Friga, may be traced in that curious book, 'Les Evangiles des Conoilles,' of which a reprint has recently appeared in Paris. In the very curious sculptured font in the church of East Meon, Hants, is a representation of the expulsion of our first parents from Paradise. Adam receives a spade from the hands of the angel, with a submissive and abased air, while Eve walks forth with head erect, playing her spindle and distaff. This seems to illustrate a rhyme very popular in the Middle Ages—

"When Adam dolve, and Eve span,  
Who was then the gentleman?"

This idea of the labour of either sex in primitive times seems to have been at one period very general, for the subject has been similarly treated in the marble bas-reliefs on the façade of the cathedral of Orvieto in Spain. In rude times, the rock or distaff was sometimes used as a cudgel. This was shown by some humorous quotations. The implements of spinning have been found in the graves of the Franks and Saxons, and they have also been discovered in the tombs of the queens of France, according to the report of Lenoir, in the year 1793. Ditmar, the chronicler, says that a silver spindle was suspended over the tomb of the wife of Conrad, Duke of Franconia, and daughter of the Emperor Otho, in the church of St. Alban, at Mayence; and Grose speaks of the tomb of Alice, prioress of the nunnery of Emanuel, in Stirlingshire, on which a distaff was sculptured. On the memorial window of Lewis Pollard, a judge of the time of Henry VIII., their personage and his wife are represented, with their twenty-two children, eleven of each sex, the boys girl with their swords, and the girls bearing their spindles. This window has disappeared from the church of Kings Nympton, in Devonshire. It is somewhat singular, that a little later than this, Coke, in his 'Institutes,' limits the old English designation of 'spinster' to women of a certain



rank, observing that if a gentlewoman be termed spinster, in any writ, appeal, or indictment, she may abate and quash the same, for she has as good a title to 'Generosa,' as Baroness, Viscountess, Marchioness, or Duchess have to theirs. Blount, in his 'Law Dictionary,' says of spinster, "it is the addition usually to all unmarried women, from the Viscount's daughter downwards."

The spinning-wheel is said to have been invented by a citizen of Brunswick, named Jurgen, in 1530, nevertheless, a manuscript in the collection of the British Museum shows that spinning with a wheel was known and practised at a much earlier period, but to these latter the women stood, and did not sit to their work. Aubrey, in his 'Natural History of Wilts,' speaks of the rock or distaff having become obsolete in parts of England in his time, remarking, however, that in Staffordshire the old and primitive mode of spinning was still followed. In the 'Boke of Husbandry,' written, as is supposed, by Sir Thomas Fitz Herbert, a judge of the days of Henry VIII., the good housewife is enjoined to look to her spinning, and to have her distaff always ready "for a pastime," that she may not be idle. The writer remarks, however, that a woman at that day could not get her living by spinning. The distaff, in old times, was, in fact, the *crochet* of the present day: it could be used by the aged, the infirm, and even the blind, and one of the proofs of its inveterate employment may be seen in the quaint book already alluded to, the 'Evangelies des Conoilles,' where the thread spun by a woman in child-bed is directed to be tied round warts, to charm them away. Mr. Akerman exhibited several spindle whirles, some of which had been found by Colonel Munro in the ruins excavated by that gentleman near Sebastopol. He had himself found them in the graves of Anglo-Saxon women, and in the excavations which he superintended at Caerwent, in the last autumn, several examples were discovered: we may, in fact, expect to find them, he observed, wherever the older traces of human settlements and human industry are explored, for they are inseparably associated with the sex whose habits restricted them chiefly to the limits of their dwellings.

#### GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

THE Council of the Geological Society have agreed to submit the name of Lieut.-Col. Portlock, R.E., F.R.S., at the Special General Meeting to be held on Wednesday next, as successor to the late Mr. Daniel Sharpe in the distinguished office of President. Colonel Portlock, who holds the appointment of Inspector of the Royal Military Academy of Woolwich, has earned for himself a high reputation among geologists for his researches in Ireland. In 1843 Colonel Portlock published a massive volume of nearly 800 pages, with copious illustrations, of the Geology of Londonderry; and he has produced an admirable manual on the science.

On the motion of Mr. W. Williams, M.P. for Lambeth, a copy has been printed of a correspondence between the Director-General of the Geological Survey and the President of the Board of Trade, relative to the recent unwelcome transfer of the Museum of Practical Geology to the general Education Department. Upon it being known that the Government proposed to discontinue recognising this institution as a higher school of mines, and to make it subordinate to the system of the general education of the country, Sir Roderick Murchison addressed a letter to Lord Stanley of Alderley, requesting that his arguments in favour of its separate constitution, which were given in the letter in great detail, might be submitted "to Her Majesty's Government, and particularly to the consideration of the Minister who may be destined to be charged with the education of the country." No attention having been paid to this elaborate official letter, in the course of three months its production was moved for, as already stated, in the House of Commons. A few days after, the Director-General of the Survey received the following

official answer to his letter, in which he is coolly told, notwithstanding the passage quoted above, that his communication was considered a private one.

"Sir,  
"Department of Science and Art,  
"Marlborough House, 10 May, 1856.  
"I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th January. That letter, until it was moved for in the House of Commons, had been treated as a private communication addressed to the President of the Board for his information, and had been transmitted by his Lordship to the Lord President of the Council, previously to the transfer of the Department of Science and Art to the Education Department. For these reasons an official answer has not hitherto been sent.

"Without entering upon any objections which you have urged to the transfer in question, I am instructed to inform you that the Department of Science and Art will be placed under the management of the Lord President of the Council, on the same footing as it has hitherto been under the President of the Board of Trade.

"Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government will continue to have the full benefit of the services of your institution, which remaining under the Department of Science and Art, as it has hitherto been since it was transferred to the Board of Trade, will receive the same encouragement and support which, in your judgment, have been productive of so much benefit already.

"Concurring with you in the belief that the great value of the Museum and the School under your direction consists in its ability to afford sound instruction in the applied sciences, their Lordships are convinced that any Minister, entrusted by Her Majesty with the charge of education, will anxiously endeavour to promote and to give fuller development to the instruction afforded by the professors of the School.

"I have, &c.  
(Signed) "LYON PLAYFAIR."

The civic dignitaries are more *au fait* at feasting ministers, judges, and military heroes, than men of science and literature. The Lord Mayor professed to entertain at dinner, on Wednesday, at the Mansion House, the Presidents of the various Learned Societies, and a general scientific and literary party; but there were few distinguished representatives either of science or of letters present. The "toast of the evening" was given in a manner as ludicrous as it was innocently discourteous. "He saw before him," said the Lord Mayor, "a great number of members of the Royal Society. Their name was Legion. It was not for him to settle questions of precedence with regard to science; it was enough for him to admire it, and he therefore asked them to drink to the prosperity of the Royal Society, coupling the name of any one who chose to respond to it." Sir Benjamin Brodie, after a general titter amongst the company, was prevailed upon briefly to acknowledge the compliment. "The Literature of the Country" was responded to by Mr. A. Hells.

A most interesting collection of antiquities, chiefly works of art, is this day, and will be again on Monday, on view at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's, preparatory to being sold by auction on Tuesday and Wednesday following. The Egyptian, Assyrian, Etruscan, and Roman gold ornaments are particularly choice, especially a pair of elaborately chased Etruscan bracelets from the collection of the Princess of Canino. At the ends are small curiously-sculptured upraised figures, and in the interior are devices of harpies and winged bulls, similar to those on the Assyrian marbles. There are also some very charming Greek and Etruscan gold rings and necklaces. Among some Pompeian relics is a richly-coloured fresco painting, in fine preservation, representing the Phædra of Sophocles receiving news of the death of Hippolytus; and a fine fragment of bas relief in terra cotta. Among the mediæval relics is a beautiful neck ornament of the Holbein period, a Russian gold cup of the sixteenth century, and an elaborately-carved ivory triptych of the fourteenth century. The collection was formed by the late Frederick Böckle, Esq., and contains in all 219 lots.

Shakespeare's House, if report speaks true, it would seem, after all, is to have a crystal palace to itself. Our readers may perhaps remember that, during the year of the Great Exhibition, 1851, an idea was first started, by some considered an importation from America, but one, we believe, that really emanated from Leamington—viz., of enclosing the house in which Shakespeare is reputed to have been born, at Stratford-upon-Avon, in a large structure of glass, isolating it at the same time

from the surrounding buildings by removing them, in order to insure its preservation from fire, even as the former arrangement was calculated to protect it from the effects of the weather. This proposal was submitted successively to the American Minister, Sir Edward Bulwer, Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. Foster, Mr. Macready, and others; but the Guild of Literature monopolised the literary mind at that epoch, and it fell to the ground, although the suggestion was warmly approved by some of those gentlemen. Within these few weeks, however, a certain Mr. John Shakespeare, who claims relationship (of course very remote) with the family of the immortal bard, has been in Stratford making inquiries and arrangements preparatory to carrying out a plan similar in all respects to the one we have above described. The sum, we understand, he intends spending in thus gratifying his feelings, is about three thousand pounds; and we learn, moreover, that whenever the preliminaries are arranged, Sir Joseph Paxton and Messrs. Fox and Henderson are to be consulted as to the details.

St. Alban's Day, Tuesday next, is to be celebrated by a gathering of various archaeological and architectural societies at St. Alban's. On this occasion Mr. G. G. Scott, who was prevented from being present at the meeting for originating the plan for the restoration of the old abbey church, will give a walking lecture on the fabric, and recapitulate what is proposed to be effected there. The Earl of Verulam, President of the St. Alban's Society, will preside at the morning meeting, when the Rev. G. A. Poole, of the Northampton Society, will read a paper on architectural colouring.

The following has been forwarded to us for publication, as a caution to authors:—

"144, Half Paved Court, Salisbury Square,  
"London, May 26.

"Dr. Henry W. Brier very respectfully informs Mr. Wyeth that he will have much pleasure in reviewing his 'Life of T. Elwood,' in the English and Irish journals he gratuitously contributes to, on the receipt of a copy, to peruse for that specific purpose, post free.

"He hopes Mr. W. will not feel offended at his humbly soliciting him to benevolently condescend, and purchase one or more copies of his fiftieth work—viz., 'The Sinner Warned, Comforted, and Redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ,' price 2s. 6d. (sent, postage free, on receipt of thirty-two postage stamps), being only now convalescent after two-and-a-half years' severe illness, and an ulcerated leg, which compelled him to give up a school he had kept for many years, and to cease his public theological, literary, and scientific lectures. These avocations were the sole support of himself and wife, and their suspension for so long a period has caused them to endure many bitter privations, even to the present time. The favour of an early answer is very humbly solicited."

The annual vote for public education has this year reached the sum 451,213*l.*, being 54,000*l.* above the estimate of last year. The largest increase is in the capitation grants, which are increased from 12,000*l.* to 40,000*l.*, and in the salaries of teachers. There is a new grant of 10,000*l.* for industrial schools, a most important department of education, deserving greater support from the Government. For schools in poor districts, and those called Ragged Schools, public funds ought to be also granted liberally, and in general where voluntary and local support can least be expected. The progress of national education under the present system, with these modifications, is most satisfactory. In 1839 the vote was only 30,000*l.*; last year, 396,921*l.*; and this year's estimate, as already stated, is 451,213*l.*

The freedom of the city of Edinburgh has been conferred on Dr. Merle d'Aubigné, the historian of the Reformation, who in his speech in reply to the address of the Lord Provost, alluded to the ancient sympathy between Geneva and Scotland, and other historical topics appropriate to the occasion. Dr. Merle paid a graceful tribute to Frederick of Prussia, the affianced of the Princess Royal of England, congratulating this country on an alliance with a Prince, the excellence of whose character he had private means of being acquainted with, a brother pastor in Switzerland having been his tutor.

To relieve M. de Lamartine from his pecuniary embarrassments, a number of eminent literary men of Paris have formed themselves into a committee to obtain subscriptions to his new periodical, *Les*



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MARRIAGE DISTAFF OF CARVED WOOD.

In the Musée National at Cluny. Date, 10th Century.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

*Entretiens*, and they have addressed earnest supplications to the public to subscribe. The admiration felt for M. de Lamartine as poet and writer is so great, that some 20,000 persons have responded to the appeal, and have paid a year's subscription in advance; but the number, it is stated, must be more than quadrupled adequately to effect the object sought.

A treaty for the protection of literary and artistic property has been concluded between France and Saxony. It will be very advantageous to the literary men and publishers of France, the German piracies of French works being very considerable in Saxony.

Our Paris letters this week are singularly barren of literary news, the great inundations having paralysed activity in all other matters.

A new periodical, under the title of 'Germania,' has appeared in Stuttgart; and the publisher's name, Francis Pfeiffer, will give it a claim on the notice of the literary world. It is to appear quarterly, and to be devoted principally to German archaeology. The editor has enlisted in his service some of the most celebrated men of his country. Uhland, the venerable poet, has contributed to the first number a paper on the Palgraves of Tübingen, a curious and most interesting set of hunting adventures, gathered from the Fürstberg Library in Donaueschingen, containing much that is valuable about German manners and customs of former times, mixed with legends and wild adventures. Jacob Grimm also appears in the first number; there are many other names of note besides. It is to be hoped that this work will succeed; and if carried on with energy it is sure to do so. It will be studied with much pleasure and instruction by our English archaeologists.

In the case of the forgeries of autograph letters and papers of Schiller, of which we gave an account, the perpetrator of them, Victor von Gerstenbergk, was condemned to two years' imprisonment with labour; he has appealed to the High Court at Eisenach, and the punishment has been diminished to one year's close confinement with labour.

A second edition of Otto Jahn's first volume of the 'Life of Mozart' has just appeared—so great has been the demand for this valuable work; the second volume will shortly be published. Also a second edition of Auerbach's 'Schatzkästlein' is now before the public; and the first edition did not appear till after Easter. This speaks much for the popularity of these Black Forest tales, for the price of the book is high for this country, and money is as scarce here as in any other part of the world.

Among the lately published novels in Germany is one by Theodore Mugge, which is spoken of by the critics with high praise; it is called 'Erich Randal,' and the scene is taken from Finland. Amongst the other merits of 'Erich Randal,' are its graphic and faithful pictures of Finnish life and manners, and the scenery of the country.

A great quantity of arms, coins, vases, and other objects, are stated by the Swedish papers to have been recently discovered near Färosund, in the island of Gothland, in the Baltic; and they have been recognised as having belonged to a noted pirate named Sarka, who lived at the end of the tenth and beginning of the eleventh century.

The Scandinavian Society of Naturalists is to hold its seventh general meeting at Christiania, in Norway, in July next, and it has invited eminent naturalists of all countries to attend.

M. de Longperier, the eminent French antiquary, and Member of the Institute, has been elected a Foreign Associate of the Royal Academy of Sciences and Literature of Berlin.

The election of Mr. Gay to the seat in the Botanical section of the Academy of Sciences at Paris has been approved of by the Emperor.

Antonio Berényi, a promising Hungarian poet, has been thrown from a carriage, and killed on the spot.

From Vienna we learn that the celebrated Simonides has found a Mæcenæas who has offered to defray the whole expense of the publication of the *Uranios*.

## FINE ARTS.

## BRITISH INSTITUTION.—EXHIBITION OF THE OLD MASTERS.

The exhibition of this year, though not deficient in point of numbers, must yet be pronounced very far below the average standard in general interest. Great names are not wanting, but when we scan their works individually, we find very few that leave anything but a passing trace in the recollection, not more than one or two that raise the collection above mediocrity. Whether the forthcoming exhibition of 1857, at Manchester, may have had any influence on the gallery, we are unable to say; we hope it may be so; for the present is in no sense an approximate representation of the art treasures of the country.

Among the novelties, some of Lord Enfield's pictures are the most conspicuous, and one of them is the chief ornament of the rooms. This is the *Portrait of Parmigiano* (17), by himself, a work of the utmost breadth and power, and exhibiting, to a remarkable degree, the 'juiciness' of effect which nothing but the highest art in oils can produce, and which, to an ordinary artist, would be difficult to get out of the subject matter of the painting. The artist is seated at a table in his studio, turning his right shoulder to the spectator, and looking out of the picture. He wears a cap, and holds in his right hand a small volume, elaborately bound in ornamental gold and silver, and on the table before him lie several coins and a small animal, seemingly a dissected mole. Behind him is a piece of sculpture, and on his left hand, at the back, a landscape unframed, with a brilliant effect of sunset, which lights up the whole picture. Considering that Parmigiano died in his thirty-seventh year, this must have been one of his later works.

A place of distinction is assigned to a small picture of *A Boy Showing a Trick* (6), from the Duke of Hamilton's collection, and attributed to Leonardo da Vinci. This picture, however, has been ascribed by Dr. Waagen to Bernardino Luini, his pupil, as the feebleness of drawing and clumsiness of outline would seem to show. The modelling of the figure and the expression of the eyes are in the style of the master.

The great picture by Rubens, *George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, on Horseback* (1), from Lady Jersey's collection, is a known picture, and has been exhibited before in the British Institution. In subject it will be considered as one of the most extravagant of the master's compositions. The Duke on horseback, riding on the sea-shore covered with shells, is ready to trample upon the triton and the seahorse, of unusually rotund proportions, that lie in his path. The winged cherubs puffing the winds from their cheeks, a figure of Plenty with a cornucopia, and another corpulent female in the air, who carries a flaming heart in her hand and repulses War with her heel, with the ship, sea, sea-shore, &c., are all, we presume, allegorical of the voyage to Spain, the match, and the advantages to arise therefrom. More absurdity, with so much noble expression as in the head of Buckingham, and such clear vigorous painting, it would be impossible to find in the works of any other master.

The portraits by Vandike are six in number: those of *George Digby, Earl of Bristol*, and *William, Earl of Bedford* (18) being one of the most striking pictures in point of execution. That of *Sir Kenelm Digby, Lady Digby, and Sons* (49), is also of great importance, from the Duke of Portland's collection.

A *Crucifixion* (52), by Guido, in fine preservation, is also one of the ornaments of the large room. It is painted in his earlier manner; the two figures standing symmetrically one on each side of the cross, which is placed directly in front, in the middle of the picture.

A *Virgin and Child, with St. Ann and St. Francis* (41), by Simone Contarini, Il Pesarese, the pupil of Guido, is also in this room. The figures are in forcible light and shade, and the draperies are unusually hard and stiff.

In point of antiquity, one of the earliest pictures is A. Dürer's *Crucifixion* (133), a small, but beau-

tiful work in three compartments; in the middle is the Crucifixion, with the portrait of Martin Luther kneeling at the foot of the cross; on one of the side wings is the Flagellation, on the other the Ascension. These are all painted with an elaborate earnestness, which places them in a high rank of art.

A more ancient production of art indeed there is, in the shape of an *Encaustic Painting* (109), which was formerly in Dr. Mead's collection, and stated to be engraved in Turnbull's 'Treatise on Ancient Painting,' which was mainly a description of the antiques in that collection. This fragment was found in Rome, and its antiquity is its chief merit.

A highly important picture, however, not only intrinsically but historically, is that from the Aldobrandini Gallery, by Giovanni Bellini, now in the Duke of Northumberland's possession. It represents *The Gods Feasting on the Fruits of the Earth* (48), and, considering its age, is a marvellous production. It has been stated that this picture was left unfinished by Bellini, who was commissioned to paint it in 1514 by Alfonso I. of Ferrara, and that the background was completed by Titian.

Another work of great and well-known interest in the history of art, and of extreme value, is the *Part of the Cartoon of Pisa* (74), from the Holkham collection. This portion of M. Angelo's famous composition is supposed by Passavant to be a copy of the copy made by Bastiano di San Gallo at the request of Vasari. For a long period, Dr. Waagen states, nothing more was known of the cartoon than what is preserved in this drawing. The name of Jacopo da Pontormo is attached to it in the catalogue, who was, perhaps, the copyist from the original cartoon.

By Andrea del Sarto there is a very characteristic and delicate *Portrait of Himself* (45), dedicated to Lorenzo di Medici—originally from the Brascchi Gallery—now in the possession of the Duke of Northumberland. The *St. John* (11) is of unusually high and rare colour, and seems to have undergone a damaging process of cleaning, repainting, and varnishing.

A picture of much interest, from the animated subject and rich colour, is the *Building the Ark* (66), by Bassan. Though nothing can be more homely and misplaced than the costume and character of the action, this picture has all the distinguished merits of the master.

A *Noli me tangere* (119), by Tintoretto, of the same school, is distinguished by considerable grandeur of design, and the usual splendour of colour.

By Salvator Rosa, besides two large and somewhat savage-looking landscapes (14 and 19), but highly characteristic, and in excellent condition, from the collection of the Duc d'Aumale, *St. Paul Preaching* (64), is an instance of a group of figures picturesquely dispersed in a rocky landscape of dark brown colour.

On Saturday last, some valuable drawings by Turner, late the property of Mr. John Dillon, of Croydon, were sold by Messrs. Foster and Co., at their gallery, Pall Mall. The following were amongst the highest prices. *Mount St. Bernard*, the scene taken from Rogers's 'Italy,' the figures drawn by Stothard, and the dogs by Edwin Landseer, eleven inches by nine, 45 guineas; *The Pyramids of Egypt*, originally designed for Finden's 'Illustrations of the Bible,' eight inches by five and a quarter, 87 guineas; *Nazareth*, drawn for the same work, eight inches by five, 126 guineas; *Old London Bridge*, the original of Goochall's engraving, fifteen inches and a half by eleven and a half, 235 guineas. *Junction of the Greta and Tees*, for Turner's 'Yorkshire,' sixteen inches and a half by eleven, 190 guineas. *Florence, from the Chiesa al Monte*, engraved in Hakewell's 'Italy,' seven inches and a half by five and a quarter, 100 guineas. *Plymouth*, with the rainbow, from which Lupton's engraving was taken, nine inches and three-quarters by six and a half, 115 guineas. *Saumur*, the drawing for the 'Keepsake,' sixteen inches and a half by eleven and a quarter, 195 guineas. *Nantes*, another for the same, seventeen inches



and a quarter by eleven and three-quarters, 170 guineas. *Llanerst, Conway*, from Sir John Pilkington's collection, fifteen inches and a half by eleven, 260 guineas. The ten drawings sold for nearly 1600*l*. A complete set of the engravings for Turner's 'England and Wales,' in the earliest stages of the plates, with etchings and intermediate proofs, a unique collection, sold for 150 guineas.

On Thursday and Friday, in last week, Colonel Durrant's fine collection of the works of Wenceslaus Hollar and William Faithorne were sold by auction at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's. The following were the highest prices obtained. First, of the works by Hollar: *The Dance of Death*, after Holbein, a complete set in the first state, 14*l*. 5*s*.; *The Trial and Execution of the Earl of Strafford*, first states, printed on the same sheet, 7*l*. 15*s*.; another of the same, from the Towneley and Esdaile collections, 8*l*. 15*s*.; *The Four Seasons*, 6*l*. 15*s*.; the same, proofs before the verses, and extremely rare, 14*l*.; *The West Front of Antwerp Cathedral*, 6*l*.; *Bird's-eye View of Freiburg, Switzerland*, 6*s*. 15*s*.; *Interior of St. George's, Windsor*, 7 guineas; *The Long View of Greenwich*, a proof before the verses, from the Duke of Buckingham's collection, 14*l*.; another, with the verses, 5 guineas; *The Prospect of King's Lynn*, 5 guineas; *The Large View of the Interior of the Royal Exchange*, proof before the introduction of the Gresham medal, with the dedication to the Lord Mayor (J. Wollaston), 12*l*.; another, with the Gresham medal, 6*l*. 17*s*. 6*d*.; *Views of Islington*, 7*l*.; *Anne of Cleves*, 8*l*. 15*s*.; *Edward VI.*, after Holbein, when a child, holding a rattle, 5*l*. 15*s*.; *Charles I. and Henrietta Maria*, after Vandyck, 9*l*. 5*s*.; *The Equestrian Statue of Charles I.*, a proof before letters, the only other impression in this state known being in the Archduke Albert's collection at Vienna, 15*l*. 5*s*.; *James II. when Duke of York*, in an oval of palms, 16 guineas; *The Lady Mary, Princess of Great Britannia*, 8*l*.; *Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel*, 5 guineas; *Lord Bacon*, 5 guineas; *Sir Thomas Cromwell, Kt.*, after Holbein, in the first state, 14 guineas; *Archbishop Laud*, after Vandyck, 8*l*. 10*s*.; *Map of the Harbour of Newcastle*, 10 guineas; *Ornatu Mulieris Anglicanus*, 6*l*. 3 guineas; *Circular Portraits of Ladies*, 11*l*. 15*s*.; *Etchings of Muffs*, 5*l*.; *Set of Arundel Vases*, after Holbein, 8*l*. 5*s*.; *Anne Dacres, Countess of Arundel*, 15 guineas; *The Lady Catherine Howard*, 13 guineas; *Martin Luther in Cap and Furrowed Cloak*, 7 guineas; an *Autograph Letter by Hollar*, 12*l*. Secondly, of Faithorne's works: *Mary, Princess of Orange*, 5 guineas; *Prince Rupert*, after Vandyck, 5*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.; the same, after Dobson, 6*l*. 15*s*.; *Charles II. in Armour*, first state, 31*l*.; *Catherine of Braganza*, 18*l*. 10*s*.; *Thomas Lord Fairfax*, 8*l*. 10*s*.; *Edward Somerset, Marquis of Worcester*, 17*l*.; *Sir William Paston*, 10*l*. 5*s*.; *Lady Paston*, the companion to the preceding, 18 guineas; *Thomas Killigrew, Page of Honour to King Charles I.*, in an early and undescribed state, 14*l*.; the same, a brilliant impression in the usual state, 5*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.; *Margaret Smith, Lady Herbert*, 6*l*. 10*s*. The two days' sale realized within a trifle of 1045*l*.

A memorial has within a few days past been presented to Sir Benjamin Hall by the British sculptors, expressing the apprehension they feel that due justice is not being done to native artists, in the distribution of the patronage of the country for public memorials. They state that it is reported that a large sum of money is to be devoted to a monument to the Duke of Wellington, and another sum to a memorial at Scutari to those who have fallen in the late war, and they fear that there is a disposition abroad to give undue preference to foreigners for these designs. They particularize the case of Watson, the late able artist, who, it is stated, never obtained a commission, whilst the rejected models which he exhibited on various occasions are now sought for with avidity, and studied by living artists. The memorial is supported by the following large and influential list of names: Baily, McDonnell, Calder Marshall, Foley, Weekes, Thomas, Miller, Thornycroft, Hone, Butler, Behnes, Noble, Handcock, Munro, Stephens, J. S. Westmacott, Durham, Edwards, Thrupp, Davis,

Earle, and Woodington. The remedy suggested to meet this danger is one the fairness of which must be sufficiently obvious to all. First, that in every competition, a public exhibition of the models of all competitors should precede the election of any one of them; secondly, that such selection shall be made by a committee, so constituted that the body of artists, as well as the general public, may confide in them. This is only common justice; is consistent with the principle that refers all matters, even those of art, to the ultimate appeal of the sovereign public; and is certainly best calculated to secure a close representation of the tastes and feelings of the age.

At the sale of the Foxley pictures late the property of Sir Robert Price, M.P., at Messrs. Foster's, two portraits by Velasquez, one of the Condé Duc d'Olivarez, and another of the brother of Philip IV. of Spain, sold for the sums of 240 and 176 guineas respectively. A painting by Berghem, representing *The Battle between Porus and Alexander*, fetched 235 guineas.

Count von Bentheim-Tecklenburg is endeavouring to establish a permanent fund for the relief of the widows and families of artists; he proposes to raise a sum of 3500 florins as a beginning, and for this purpose intends to publish a 'Kunst Album' ('Album of Art'), to which all the literary and artistic notabilities in Germany are urged to contribute. It is to be hoped that this praiseworthy scheme of Count Bentheim may succeed; but there are so many similar institutions existing, or being formed now in Germany, that it is impossible they can all make much progress; indeed, as a rule, we think such charities are at best but a doubtful benefit, and too often tend to make the man who works by his brain improvident during the present, and careless for the future.

Moritz Steinla, the celebrated engraver, whose *Madonna di San Sisto*, from Raphael's picture, vies with that of Müller in truth and finish, has been long employed on an engraving of the *Madonna del Pesce* of Raphael, the wonder of the Madrid collection. In a journey he took with Passavant a few years ago to Spain, he made a drawing of the picture, returned to Dresden, his present residence, to work at it, and lately made a second pilgrimage to Madrid, to compare his engraving with the original, in order to render it as perfect as possible. The result is now before the public, and has shown the veteran Steinla not less a master of his tools than in his younger days.

The engraving of the *Disputa*, one of Raphael's celebrated frescoes, which has been entrusted to the well-known artist, Joseph Keller, of Düsseldorf, is now finished, and the proofs which have been taken exceed all expectations in clearness and finish of the execution, and the faithful interpretation of the original picture. This engraving is intended for distribution among the members of the Düsseldorf Art Union, but at the same time is so very much above the value of a single subscription, that it will only be given to subscribers of a certain number of years' standing, the term of which has not been definitively settled as yet by the committee.

There are more artists now in Rome than before the revolution; by the latest accounts there were 224 painters, male and female, 105 sculptors, and 144 engravers.

From Pisa we learn that artists are busy taking photographs from the frescoes in the Campo Santo; from these are to be made engravings, which will be most valuable as exact copies of these precious works of ancient art.

We have to announce the death of Herr Ahorn, the sculptor who executed the well-known lion carved out of the solid rock at Lucerne, which has been visited and admired by all travellers in Switzerland—the model was by Thorwaldsen. Herr Ahorn died at Constance.

The Academy of Arts and Literature of Ghent have offered a medal of the value of 500 francs as a prize for the best history of sculpture in Belgium, from the introduction of Christianity to the end of the eighteenth century.

## MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

RISTORI has during the last week established herself as a reigning favourite with the fashionable audiences of the Lyceum. The absurdly extravagant prices of admission exclude her from a wider circle of admirers. Even genius will not induce people to encounter suffocation in the pit, or run the risk of blindness in the amphitheatre stalls, and no other part of the house is accessible to moderate means. Why should this be so? Why should we have more to pay for seeing Ristori than we should pay to see a Siddons, if she were now upon our stage? The cost of the speculation does not justify such a preposterous scale of charge, for a more common-place company could scarcely be brought together than that which forms a drag upon the performances of this great actress. It certainly is monstrous that we should let speculators in foreign theatricals make us pay as they do, and divert so large a proportion of our superfluous coin from the support of our own artists. Then, as if the price of admission were not great enough, we are charged for the books of the play, with the so-called English translations, the outrageous sum of half-a-crown. And such translations! Heaven help the poet who comes under the tender mercies of Mr. Thomas Williams! That this gentleman knows anything of Italian we have the gravest doubts. He seems to translate through some convenient French medium, and has not even had the discretion to get some one to go over his work, and make it fit the Italian of the opposite page. For again and again he omits in the English passages which occur in the Italian, and gives passages in English which in the Italian are nowhere to be found. And for this butcher's work every unfortunate Briton, who wishes to assist his ear by the help of his eye, is compelled to pay half-a-crown! Verily the amount of humbug we submit to in regard to everything foreign is astounding!

But even English endurance very nearly gave way on Wednesday last under the dreariness of *Maria Stuarda*, which was selected for Ristori's second character. After the brilliancy and rapid action of the *Medea* this was a trial indeed. The play is one of Schiller's worst, false in conception throughout, and tedious up to the highest limit of Teutonic dullness. It is, indeed, more like the work of a clever schoolboy than a great dramatist. Were it to be attempted upon the English stage, its first night would most certainly be its last. That it is false to history, false to nature, false to propriety, might not condemn it; but the utter want of dramatic movement, the intolerable length of the stupid speeches, the mere commonplace of the dialogue, would sink it irretrievably. Yet this is the sort of stuff we submit to be bored with by French and Italian actors, and which we make a pretence of admiring. It is no doubt a test of the powers of Rachel and Ristori, that they can induce any intelligent being, who feels himself responsible for his time, to sit out five acts of such tedious talk; but, after all, it is a mere waste of power. They can make nothing of large sections of the piece, and even Ristori was not Ristori down to nearly the close of the third act. Nay, for our own parts, we do not think that even in the best of what remained the world would lose much were she to discard the part from her repertoire. The situations are capable only of melo-dramatic effects, which would be admirable at the Porte St. Martin, but are not within the domain of the higher drama. They afford scope for the dexterity and stage knowledge of the skilful artist. They are no canvas for the great actress to display her genius. Of course, there were numberless fine points in Ristori's performance. She gave dignity—and this is saying much—to the scolding tilt with *Elizabeth* at the close of the third act. The catlike ferocity, "the fury-slinging flame" of Rachel in this scene are familiar to our readers, and no doubt many will prefer her treatment of it to the concentrated bitterness and sublime contempt with which Ristori

towers over her royal antagonist. Rachel looks as though in another instant her hands would complete the work of wrath which her sarcasms had begun. Ristori is every inch a queen to the close. By mere grandeur of presence and voice she "overcrowds the spirit" of her rival. When she says,—

"Ovo il buon dritto  
Regnasse, tu saresti or nella polve  
Stesa a miei piedi, che tuo re son io,"

so majestic, so right royal is her mien, she should not be surprised to see *Elizabeth* drop at her feet, and confess her supremacy. In this scene, the inherent ladyhood of the actress, which we adverted to in noticing her *Medea*, is conspicuous. The last scene was admirably acted throughout, and, consisting as it does for the most part of *Mary's* confession to her priest, it was a novel and interesting dramatic study. It was simple, earnest, and full of passages of quiet pathos. Very noble was the protestation that she had made a full disclosure of her guilt, in answer to the doubts of her confessor. Her "*Io son confessa*," would have convinced a Talleyrand. Still finer was her delivery of the passage where she entreats *Cecil* to allow her heart to be sent to her friends in France. What years of yearning and unhappiness were expressed in the tone and action with which she uttered the words—"Oh, là fu sempre!" It was in such passages as these that we recognised the fine powers of the actress, rather than in some of the broader and more striking effects of her performance. The concluding incident of the play has been much admired, where, after her taunts of *Leicester* for his duplicity, she suddenly remembers the discordance of such feelings with the situation of a sinner on the brink of eternity, and rushes to the front of the stage, holding her crucifix before her to rivet her thoughts upon the world beyond. This was picturesquely conceived, and executed with consummate skill. But many actresses might cope with Ristori in points like this. None but the greatest are equal to those finer effects, to which we have alluded above, where the soul alone speaks in the voice "or in the shifting gleams and shadows" of the face.

If we do not write as warmly in praise of Ristori as many of our contemporaries, it is not that our admiration is less genuine. But we cannot surrender our judgment or our memory to our enthusiasm, or forget that England has a drama, and has had, and still has, artists on her stage to maintain her eminence here as in the other arts. We remember what our Shakspearian drama demands of an actress. We remember what a combination of powers, natural and acquired, goes to the adequate impersonation of a *Juliet*, a *Constantine*, an *Imogen*, a *Hermione*, or a *Desdemona*, in tragedy; a *Rosalind*, a *Beatrice*, or a *Portia*, in comedy. We know how small in contrast with these is the demand which a *Medea*, a *Mary Stuart*, a *Phadra*, or a *Camilla*, makes upon the heart and brain, the voice and action of even the most gifted. When we can see Rachel or Ristori grapple with parts like Shakspeare's—master them, and throw into eclipse the genius which has adorned the English stage even in our own day, then shall we unite our voice to swell the praises of their supremacy. Till then, however, we must continue to doubt whether they would come out of the trial with unmixt success, and to believe that in so doubting we do them no wrong.

At the Royal Italian Opera Mario appeared on Thursday, for the first time in this country as *Manrico* in *Il Trovatore*, with the success that might have been anticipated. The cabaletta, 'Di quella pira,' one of the finest pieces of the whole opera, an air worthy of being wedded to one of Körner's battle-songs, was delivered with grand effect, as well as the milder parts of the opera more suited to Mario's usual style.

There never has been a season so rich as the present in musical entertainments. Besides the two grand houses, there is a well-sustained season of operas in English at Drury Lane; and, for the first time on the south of the Thames, a series of

operatic performances with a very good company has commenced this week at the Surrey Theatre. *Norma* has been given, with Madame Lorini as the *prima donna*, and *Lucrezia Borgia*, with Madame Caradori. There is also a good ballet, with Rosina Wright as chief dancer. The English opera season at Sadler's Wells has also been most successful.

Of the musical events of the week, the most notable have been the first of Madame Goldschmidt's three farewell concerts at Exeter Hall, and the fifth of the Philharmonic Concerts at the Hanover Rooms, at which Miss Arabella Goddard's pianoforte performance formed a distinguished feature. At the Musical Union, Madame Schumann was the pianiste, accompanied by Ernst and Piatti, in Beethoven's Trio in D, Op. 70. The quartetts were brilliantly executed by Ernst, Cooper, Goffrie, and Piatti.

On Saturday a deputation of the managers of the metropolitan theatres, headed by Mr. Benjamin Webster, presented Mr. W. Donne with a handsome silver inkstand, bearing the following inscription:—"To William Bodham Donne, Esq., as a small return for the kindness and promptitude with which he attended to the interests of the following metropolitan managers during the time he officiated as deputy licenser of plays. J. B. Buckstone, J. Johnson, S. Phelps, W. Creswick, C. J. James, E. T. Smith, W. Cooke, C. Kean, R. Shepherd, B. O. Conquest, Nelson Lee, J. J. Towers, J. Douglas, S. Lane, B. Webster, T. Greenwood, T. Payne, and A. Wigan."

A charming little piece, called *Le Village*, in one act, has been brought out within the last few days at the Théâtre Français at Paris, and it is admirably acted. It is by M. Octave Feuillet.

There are not fewer than four French composers in the field for the place in the Academy of Fine Arts of Paris left vacant by the death of Adolphe Adam, namely, Felicien David, Berlioz, Faneçon, and Gounod.

A monster meeting of vocal musicians is to take place on the 6th of July at Ghent, with competitions for prizes—the celebrated Cologne society of singers has been invited to attend. The rewards consist in a gold medal with three hundred francs for the first, a silver medal with one hundred and fifty francs for the second, and a silver medal without any money for the third prize. On the 19th, 20th, and 21st of July the great festival of vocal music of the North German 'Sänger Bund' takes place in Brunswick.

The indefatigable Madame Birch Pfeiffer has just made an adaptation of Bulwer's 'Night and Morning' for the stage. We may be said to subsist on the brains of French playwrights for our dramatic entertainments, but the Germans, notwithstanding their own inexhaustible wealth of dramatic literature, rob freely both from English and French.

At the great musical festival lately held at Düsseldorf, the united orchestra consisted of 703 vocal and 164 instrumental performers.

The Italian papers speak with great praise of a new opera called *Elnara*, which is making a perfect *furor* at the Scala theatre in Milan. The author of it, Signor Petretta, is a Neapolitan by birth, and a favourite pupil of Donizetti.

The second part of Goethe's *Faust* is to be produced on the 24th of June, for the first time, at Weimar, in celebration of the Duke's birthday. It has been arranged with great care and labour by the late Herr Eckermann; but however beautiful as a poem, it is hardly likely ever to be popular as a dramatic representation.

Francis Liszt, the capellmeister of Weimar, has just composed a fantasia and fugue, which has the celebrated Sebastian Bach for its subject: it has been written expressly for a grand organ concert to be given in the month of June in the cathedral of Merseburg.

Glück's opera, *Orpheus and Eurydice*, has been brought out most successfully at Dresden, after a careful study and innumerable rehearsals.

## LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—May 2nd.—Hon. R. C. Neville, V.-P., in the chair. Mr. Salvin reported the satisfactory progress of the restorations at Lindisfarne Abbey Church, which have been carried out under his directions. In the winter of 1851 or 1852, the principal part of the west front, with a remarkable arcade over the west door, had fallen, and various other parts of the ruined fabric were in imminent danger for want of a little timely care and conservation. The attention of Government having been called to the damage which had occurred, the site of the abbey being on Crown lands, a liberal grant of 500*l.* had been made for the preservation of a structure of such remarkable historical interest, and justly to be regarded as a national monument. Mr. W. S. Walford gave an account of a small silver-gilt casket in the possession of Col. Merick, at Goodrich Court, which bears the royal arms, and had been regarded as having belonged to Edmund Crouchback, Earl of Lancaster, brother of Edward I. As an object of beautiful workmanship, and evidently a relique of some distinguished personage of the royal race, it seemed desirable to identify the ancient owner. The arms engraved upon it are those of England dimidiated with France, *senee*, entire, and the same with a plain label, as a difference; the last coat being on the front of the casket. Mr. Walford pointed out that the former must be the arms of some English queen, daughter of a king of France, and he came to the conclusion that they are to be assigned to Margaret, Queen of Edward I., the bearing with the label being probably that of Isabella of France, while she was the betrothed of Prince Edward, afterwards Edward II. The betrothal took place in 1303, and their marriage was deferred till 1308, after Edward's accession. Mr. Walford showed also the probability that this interesting casket had been presented by Margaret to her niece, then a child of 10 or 11 years old, and that it had served either as a box for jewels, or, as had been supposed by its late possessor, Sir S. Meyrick, as a chrismatory, part of the furniture of Isabella's private chapel. Its date seems clearly established as between Sept. 1299, when Margaret espoused Edward I., and January 1308. Mr. A. H. Rhind communicated an account of the present conditions of the monuments of Egypt and Nubia. After some months passed in those countries he had reached Sakkara, and from thence addressed this report of his recent impressions, giving a lamentable picture of the wanton injuries and neglect to which those remarkable vestiges of antiquity are exposed. Mr. Rhind strongly deprecated the extensive damage occasioned by the cupidity of modern travellers, and even of scientific commissions, such as that under the auspices of Lepsius, by whom many precious remains had been recklessly mutilated. It was hopeless to seek any remedy for the rapidly-advancing destruction of these monuments through the interference of the Government of the country, to whom, however, Mr. Rhind suggested, a remonstrance might possibly be addressed with advantage in the actual position of our relations with the east. He lamented the idle mischief of heedless English tourists, whose ignoble names deface many of the most interesting remains of antiquity in Egypt. Mr. Rhind paid a well-merited tribute to the good taste and conservative care constantly evinced by Sir Gardner Wilkinson in his investigations, as contrasted with the sad reckless course pursued by certain foreign savants. Mr. Pollard gave an account of several early interments at Lincoln Cathedral, found in 1840 and 1842, on the south side: the bodies had been deposited in stone coffins, and wrapped in garments of coarse tissue, apparently of hair, which was in perfect preservation, although the human remains crumbled to dust immediately on the admission of air. A portion was brought for examination. These coffins were supposed to be of the thirteenth century. Mr. Burt read the results of a recent investigation of certain documents preserved at the Chapter House, Westmin-



ster, which throw light on the early commercial importance of Bristol. The Rev. J. Greville Chester gave an account of the discovery of a considerable number of silver pennies at York, in making a sewer in Walngate. With a few exceptions they bear the name of St. Peter, and were struck at York, about the year 950. With these were two pennies of St. Edmund, and two silver halfpennies of St. Peter, of which no examples had previously occurred, one of the pennies also being of an unpublished type. This hoard had been deposited in a wooden box, and lay at a depth of about four feet in black earth. A large stone bead or whorl for a spindle was found in the same excavation. Mr. Greville Chester sent two of the coins for examination. The Rev. W. Sneyd exhibited several glass beads found in Berks; an enamelled pendant ornament in form of a cross, charged with five caldrons, resembling those which occur in the arms of the De Lara family in Spain. Mr. Carrington exhibited a massive gold ring found in a gravel pit on the Bansted Downs, Surrey, and bearing the initials W. T. Mr. Franks brought a leaden proof piece from a die for coining pennies, of the time of King Alfred; it was found in St. Paul's Churchyard, and was evidently a trial-piece of the engraver. Also a large collection of pilgrim's signs, found in London, comprising Canterbury bells, with other tokens given to pilgrims to the shrine of St. Thomas, and a curious variety of reliques of the same class. Mr. Coles exhibited a small money-pot, or *tirelire*, of green glazed ware, found in Dunster-court, Throgmorton-street, and a delicately fastened Roman fibula, also discovered in the City, and remarkable as being plated with white metal. The Hon. E. C. Neville brought a Roman die of bone, found at Arbor Banks, Ashwell, Herts, in an urn apparently of Roman ware; and a massive iron padlock, a spear-head, with other Roman objects found at Chesterford. Mr. Way exhibited a bronze ornament curiously chased and enamelled, belonging to Mr. C. Roach Smith: it is probably of early mediæval date, and had been partly gilt. Mr. T. Pond sent for examination the matrix of the seal of the Prioress of Ivinghoe, Bucks: it was found in a wall at Worth Matravers in the Isle of Purbeck, and is now in the possession of Mr. Wilcox of Wareham. Mr. Morgan brought a massive ring of silver gilt, set with a large piece of rock-crystal, with a red foil underneath it. It bears the figures of the Evangelists, the arms of Barbo, under a papal tiara, the arms of Arragon, and the name of Pope Paul II., who was of the Barbo family, and was elected in 1464. Mr. Morgan stated that he was in possession of a considerable number of the large papal rings of this class, exclusively of the fifteenth century; they are of extraordinary weight, and scarcely suited to be actually worn, unless on some occasion of special ceremony or parade. The purpose for which they were used has not been ascertained. Mr. Morgan produced also a day and night dial of curious construction, made by Humphrey Cole, in 1575, and a portable pedometer and sun-dial, made by Johan Melchior Landeck, of Nuremberg. Miss Julia Bockett sent a fine silver medal by the celebrated artist Heinrich Reitz, representing Frederic Duke of Saxony, and dated 1535. The Hon. W. Fox Strangways exhibited several representations of architectural subjects in Germany, the palace of the Dukes of Franconia at Rotenburg, buildings at Nuremberg, &c. Mr. Tite sent two fine illuminated service books, examples of Italian art in the fifteenth century; also two portable dials, and an elaborately carved ivory comb, probably of the work of Goa.

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—*June 9th.*—Sir Roderick I. Murchison, Vice-President, in the chair. Blackett Botcherty, M.A., Thomas Browning, Hon. Thomas Powys, John Torrance, Captain Frank Vardon, and Robert White, were elected Fellows of the Society. Attention was called to the arrival of Captain Byron Drury, of Her Majesty's ship *Pandora*, from the Australian station, with surveys; and to a letter which had been received by

the Secretary from Dr. Sutherland, on the results of the observations made at Natal, with the instruments furnished to him by the Council.—1. Steam Communication with Australia.—The discussion on steam communication with Australia was resumed by a reply from Captain Stokes, R.N., F.R.G.S., to the remarks made on his paper at the previous meeting by the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Crawford, and Captain Fitzroy.—2. Isthmus of Darien. Abstract of Investigations connected with the Search for the Best Locality to make an Inter-oceanic Canal. By Lionel Gisborne, C.E. In 1852, an expedition was organized to examine the Isthmus of Darien between the Gulf St. Miguel and Port Escoscos. The proceedings connected with this expedition are in the archives of the Royal Geographical Society. In 1854 a second expedition was organized to survey the Isthmus of Darien between the Gulf of San Miguel and Caledonia Bay. The proceedings of this expedition have not been published, but a copy is presented to the Royal Geographical Society by Mr. Lionel Gisborne, who had charge of both expeditions. As the subject of an inter-oceanic canal has been again before this Society, a short summary of the proceedings of the last surveying expedition to the Isthmus of Darien will be of interest. The governments of England, France, the United States, and New Granada assisted in the object of the expedition, and protected the surveying parties from the Indians, who had always evinced hostility—so much so, that it is believed that since the buccaners crossed in 1684, up to the year 1852, when Messrs. Gisborne and Ford made a partial examination of it, no one has succeeded in obtaining a footing in the country except the Spaniards, under Milla, and Paterson's companions. The governments whose co-operation had been secured sent men of war to each coast, and each deputed an officer to report upon the results of the survey. These officers were Lieutenant St. John, R.E., Lieutenant Jaureguiberry (French navy), Lieutenant Strain (United States navy), and Colonel Codazzi (New Granada). A treaty was made with the Indians, by which they bound themselves not to molest any one going into the interior; but they refused to assist the operations of the surveyors by providing guides, canoes, or provisions. They held strictly to this agreement. Previous to the arrival of this expedition, Captain Prevost, R.N., had been instructed by the admiral on the Pacific station to explore the country between St. Miguel and Port Escoscos. This order was given without knowing that any expedition was about leaving England with that view. The result of that exploration is detailed in Captain Prevost's paper, published in the 24th volume of the Society's Journal, with a map compiled by Mr. Arrowsmith from documents lent him by Mr. Gisborne. Prior to the arrival of the joint expedition, Lieutenant Strain, United States navy, went into the interior from Caledonia Bay with twenty-one men. They lost their way, and after sixty days of intense suffering, during which seven of them died of starvation, the rest were finally saved by a boating party, under Lieutenant (now Commander) Forsyth, detached from the English man-of-war *Virago*, Captain Marshall, stationed at the Gulf of San Miguel. The result of the survey shows that the harbours of Caledonia and Darien are excellent, and in every way adapted as the termini of an inter-oceanic canal. The coast on the Atlantic side was found to be seven miles wrongly laid down in longitude, and a range of mountains from 900 to 1600 feet high was proved to form the parting of the country at a distance of about five miles from the Atlantic. This water parting is precipitous, being at a distance of five miles westward only 200 above the mean level of the oceans. The distance between tidal waters on opposite coasts is under thirty miles. A track chart of the Chuquaque has been made nearly as high as the Loma Desada, at the confluence of the Sucubdi, which agrees in a very remarkable manner with the copy of the map made to show Milla's route in 1787-8, a tracing of which was given to Mr. Gisborne by Colonel Codazzi. The result of this last

survey is demonstrative of the fact that canalization across, without tunnelling, is here impracticable; but it also proves that a railway might be constructed between excellent ports not above twelve leagues apart, with a summit level, to be crossed, not exceeding 300 yards above the sea.

**LINNEAN.**—*May 24th.*—*Anniversary.*—Thomas Bell, Esq., President, in the chair. The King of Portugal was proposed by the President as an Honorary Member, and unanimously elected. The Secretary reported that eighteen Fellows and one Foreign Member had died, and that twenty Fellows had been elected during the year. The ballot for the Council and officers for the ensuing year having closed, the Scrutineers reported that Robert Bentley, Esq.; L. L. Dillwyn, Esq.; Richard Owen, Esq.; Joseph Woods, Esq.; and James Yates, Esq., had been elected Members of the Council; and that Thomas Bell, Esq., had been re-elected President; Wm. Yarrell, Esq., Treasurer; J. J. Bennett, Esq., Secretary; and Richard Taylor, Esq., Under-Secretary. The President nominated Dr. Boott, Mr. Brown, Prof. Owen, and Mr. Yarrell, Vice-Presidents for the year ensuing.

**ANTIQUARIES.**—*June 5th.*—Admiral Smyth, V.P., in the chair. Mr. William Coulson, Mr. S. Benson, Mr. Henry Cunliffe, and Mr. David Chambers, were elected Fellows. Colonel Harding communicated an account, with a sketch, of sculptures on the tympanum of an arch in Stoke-up-Hampden Church, Somerset. Mr. Foulkes offered some further remarks on the site of an ancient cemetery discovered at Chester. Mr. Bird presented a photograph of the obelisk at Luxor. Mr. Temple exhibited a trinket in the form of an open helmet, found in the churchyard at Doncaster. The Rev. Lambert Larking exhibited the matrix of a seal, bearing on one side an eagle displayed, and on the other the bust of an ecclesiastic holding a crozier. The Secretary then read 'Observations on Researches in Suabian Tumuli,' by Mr. W. Michael Wylie, founded on certain discoveries by Captain Von Dürich. The Celtic character of these tumuli was questioned by Mr. J. M. Kemble, who offered some remarks, *vis-à-vis*, to the meeting.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC.**—*June 5th.*—Sir W. J. Newton, V.P., in the chair. Professor Stokes, B. Clayton, E. A. Grundy, J. Buchanan Smith, and W. Gruning, Esqrs., were elected Members of the Society. A paper by Mr. Paul Pretsch, late Manager of the Imperial Printing Office at Vienna, was read, upon Photogalvanography, or printing by light and electricity. The lecture was illustrated by many fine engravings taken by the process, which were presented by the author to the Society. Mr. Barnes exhibited specimens, negative and positive, of his new dry collodion process. It was resolved that a Special General Meeting be held on Thursday, July 3rd, to consider the propriety of altering Law VII., on the election of officers, and to take steps for filling up the vacant seats in the Council.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday**—Statistical, 8 p.m.—(Discussion on Mr. Hendricks's paper, On the Loss sustained by Government in granting Annuities, will be resumed. Also, a paper by Samuel Farnick, Esq., M.D., On the Effects of Overcrowding and want of Ventilation on Cholera.)  
Chemical, 8 p.m.  
Juridical, 8 p.m.  
British Architects, 8 p.m.
- Tuesday**—Linnean, 8 p.m.
- Wednesday**—Geological.—(Special General Meeting for the Election of a President. Papers to be read subsequently:—1. On the Geology of Varna and its Vicinity. By Capt. T. Spratt, R.N., F.G.S. 2. On the Correlation of the Middle Eocene Tertiary of England, France, and Belgium. By J. Prestwich, Esq.)
- Thursday**—Royal, 8 p.m.  
Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
- Saturday**—Astronomical, 2 p.m.  
Asiatic, 8 p.m.—(Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry Rawlinson, K.C.B., On the Chaldeans.)  
Botanic, 4 p.m.



## VARIETIES.

*A Relic of Antiquity.*—The following account of a procession and pageant in the town of Chard, on the occasion of the recent peace rejoicing, is taken from Woolmer's Gazette. It furnishes at once a parallel and a contrast to the doings of our ancestors in the days that are gone. "In half an hour the procession was got ready for starting in the following order, according to a printed programme:—Flag of the Allied Nations—Infantry—Marshal (Mr. Viney) on horseback, with baton—St. George's Banner—Band—Mayor and Town Clerk in a carriage drawn by four greys—Aldermen and Council—Beadle, on horseback, in full uniform—Banner, 'Let Brotherly Love continue'—Clergy, and Ministers of other denominations, and Gentry—Police, in uniform, with truncheons and cutlasses—High Bailiff, carrying mace—Banner, red, white, and blue—Tradesmen and Visitors—Banner, Sardinian—Band—Females of the lace factories and others, with numerous lace flags of home manufacture—Banner, Turkish—Mechanics and others—Banner, American—Old Heroes on horseback—Printing Press at work. The Carpenters distinguished themselves with epaulets of shavings—The Masons with square, &c., followed by Mr. Enticott with a large well-modelled mansion drawn in a carriage—The Plumbers were headed by Mr. Bunn, who worked a miniature pump—Mr. Hawker, engineer, displayed the action of a steam regulator—The Ironfounders mounted castings—The Sweepers, with blackened faces and hands, and white costume, carried their implements—The Brewers were represented on horseback, as were the Woolstaplers—The Cabinet Makers exhibited a shop on a vehicle, with the work of French polishing going on—The Curriers were seen shaving real hides—The Farmers carried reap-hooks and sheep-shears—The Coal-heavers their baskets and shovels—The Chandlerers were personated by Mr. Stoodley ('the master of the horse') and his employes on horseback, each with a clever representation of a cask of tallow behind him, bearing the following inscription:—

'Let farmers plough the British fallow,  
We chandlers melt the Russian tallow.'

A Printing Press (Mr. Young's), worked by Mr. Kinsman, followed, and distributed the newest edition of 'God save the Queen,' on papers of divers colours—Last, but not least, came a Smith's (Sutherland's) Forge—all hot, and smiting—converting swords into ploughshares—Mr. Grabham, carrier, brought up the rear, with one of his four-horse vans, representing at once his calling and his kindness, for he 'gave a lift' to the old and infirm, who could not otherwise have joined in the procession.—The veritable sword and spear which were turned into a ploughshare and pruning-hook in 1815, were also carried by the owner's trusty man, John Way.

The King of Prussia has signified his intention of erecting a statue in bronze to the late Director of Police, Herr von Hinckeldey, to be placed in the square before the police office.

## SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above SOCIETY was held in EDINBURGH on the 6th May. The Report by the Directors stated that the number of policies issued during the year ending 1st March last, was 639, the sums assured thereby being £293,930, and the annual premiums thereon £9120.

The result of the investigation for the triennial division of profits was then announced. The surplus ascertained to have arisen amounted to £183,339, which wholly belongs to the members, but of which one-third (£61,179) must, by the laws of the Society, be set aside as a reserve for allocation at the next triennial division in 1859.

From the remaining two-thirds a Bonus was declared at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, on all policies on which six premiums had been paid, not only on the sums in the policies, but also on the former vested bonuses.

There was left, in addition to £61,179 of reserve above stated, a surplus of £18,623, together £74,902, to go to the next division.

THE INVESTED FUNDS of the Society amount to £279,261  
THE ANNUAL REVENUE to £169,400  
THE EXISTING ASSURANCES to £1,764,949

Copies of the Report may be obtained at the Society's head office, 26, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh; at the London Office, 126, Bishopsgate Street Within, and at any of the agencies.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Manager.

ARCHIBALD T. RITCHIE, London Agent.

## LAW LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

May 24, 1856.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that in conformity with the provisions of the Deed of Settlement, a GENERAL MEETING of PROPRIETORS will be held at the Society's Office, Fleet Street, London, on TUESDAY, the 24th day of JUNE next, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, to elect a DIRECTOR in the room of William Chisholme, Esq. deceased; to elect FIVE other DIRECTORS, and TWO AUDITORS, when those who go out of office by rotation will be proposed for Re-Election: and also for general purposes.

The Director to be chosen in the room of William Chisholme, Esq., will remain in office until the 24th day of June, 1860.

By order of the Directors.

WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, Actuary.

## THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

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Detailed Prospectuses and Forms of Proposal, together with the List of Bonuses paid on claims in 1855, and the Office ACTING for the same year, will be given on a written or personal application.

CHARLES INGALL, Actuary.

## SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, LONDON.

Policies effected with this Society now, will participate in Four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the net Profits of the Society, according to the conditions contained in the Society's Prospectus. The Premiums required by this Society for insuring young lives are lower than in many other established Offices, and Insurers are fully protected from all risk by an ample guarantee fund in addition to the accumulated funds derived from the investments of Premiums.

Policy Stamps paid by the Office.

Prospectuses may be obtained at the Office in Threadneedle-street, London, or of any of the Agents of the Society.

CHARLES HENRY LIDDERDALE, Actuary.

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Marylebone ".....	4, Stratford Place, Oxford St.
Temple Bar ".....	217, Strand.

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J. W. GILBERT, General Manager.

## UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Chairman.

CHARLES DOWNES, Esq.

Deputy Chairman.

THE HON. FRANCIS SCOTT, M.P.

## SPECIAL NOTICE.

LANDED PROPRIETORS, TENANTS, FARMERS, and AGRICULTURISTS generally, are invited to examine the Tables of Rates of the UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, established in 1834, which will be found more advantageous than those of most other Companies; at the same time, Parties insuring with it do not incur the risk of Co-partnership, as is the case with the latter. Upwards of Five Hundred and Ninety-one Thousand Pounds (including Bonuses) have been paid to Widows, Children, and other parties holding Policies with this Company, which have become claims by death since its formation. Thirteen Thousand Pounds per annum has been the average of new Premiums during the last seven years. The Annual Income exceeds One Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand Pounds. Income Tax abated in respect of Premiums paid on Policies issued by this Company, as set forth by Act of Parliament. All Forms of Proposals, &c., to be had, on application, at the office, 8, WATERLOO PLACE, Pall Mall, LONDON; or from the Agents established in all the large Towns of the Kingdom.

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